WORLD SOCCER

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LIVERPOOL'S European triumph in pictures

HELMUT SCHOEN and EMLYN HUGHES

LEFT RIGHT

World SOCCER

HAPPEL — BACK WITH HOLLAND

ERNST HAPPEL is to be Holland's new team manager — but whether he will take the job full-time or continue with Belgian champions and cup-winners Brugge remains to be seen.

Happel succeeds Jan Zwartkruis, the 51-year-old air force captain who took over after the European champions as caretaker (!) manager almost a year ago.

Zwartkuis stepped down partly because there was an air force commission awaiting him and partly because he found the Holland job involved too much paperwork and not enough time with his players.

Happel couldn't be taking on his new task on much of a higher note. Having led from start to finish in the league, Brugge celebrated their second successive championship by winning the cup final in the most dramatic circumstances.

Their opponents were Anderlecht — and the dethroned Cup-winners' Cup holders were 2-0 ahead after just 13 minutes thanks to goals from Arie Haan and the league's top scorer, Francois van der Elst.

Brugge hit back through Sanders and Raoul Lambert before Anderlecht went 3-2 up on the hour — and now it was the turn of £120,000 former Derby centre forward Roger Davies to earn his keep.

In the 62nd minute he equalised after a mazy dribble, and then, seven minutes from the end shot in the winner from a corner when the ball ricocheted off Jan Ruiter's foot.

And to think that Happel nearly quit early in the season in protest because the board had signed Davies over his head!

Happel, incidentally, was not the KNVB's first choice as Holland manager, despite the reputation he built first at Den Haag, then in taking Feyenoord to the Champions' Cup and the world club cup in 1970.

The West German coach of Wacker Innsbruck, Georg Kessler, was first choice. But after approaches had been made from KNVB headquarters at Zeist, came the veto — from players' spokesmen Rudi Krol and Johan Cruyff!

After that Kessler said he wasn't interested at any price. And so to Happel.

Meanwhile there have been problems at Dutch club level, despite the fact that Ajax have won the championship for the first time since Cruyff left for Barcelona in 1973.

Krol has publicly stated that he wants to get away, so has Wim Suurbier and there was a great deal of talk about Ruud Geels, Holland's top scorer with 34 goals in 34 games, being sold to Anderlecht.

Yet instead of a forward, it was defender Johnny Dusbaba, aged 21, who was sold to the Belgians — for £300,000. Ajax hoped to use the cash to buy back Johnny Rep, who has bought out his contract with Valencia. But Ajax face competition from Feyenoord, PSV Eindhoven — looking to replace homeward-bound Swede Ralf Edstroem — and RWD Molenbeek.

Ajax ended the season amid contract and injury problems and a surprise 2-1 home defeat by Roda, but it came too late to upset them.

Meanwhile the Dutch Cup has been won by former UEFA Cup finalists Twente Enschede, though they needed extra time before reaping goals from skipper Epie Drost, Arnold Muhren and Jan Jeuring to end the challenge of second division PEC Zwolle.

One late signing to report in Holland — Feyenoord boss Vujadin Boskov has at least persuaded his old club, Den Haag, to sell him their main player of the past five years, sweeper Aad Mansveld. He has signed a two-year contract with Feyenoord.

Den Haag were, of course, in Europe in 1975-76, finally going down in the Cup-winners' Cup to West Ham. It's one of their tragedies that they must regularly sell their best player to stay solvent.

For instance, three years ago they sold Dusbaba to Ajax . . . for a paltry £20,000!

ENGLAND ON TOUR pages 6/7

Mike Channon showing World Soccer photographer Peter Robinson how it is done.

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FRONT COVER PICTURE
Action from a West German match between Bayern Munich and Eintracht Frankfurt.

Cup for Etienne

SAINT-ETIENNE won the French Cup after one of the most dramatic twists in the 60 finals of the competition.

The deposed French champions, having thrashed new league winners Nantes 5-1 in the semi-final second leg, faced Reims — and the Champagne team took the lead after 63 minutes.

Dede Betta slipped the pass through to give Argentine winger Santiago Santamaria the chance to shoot past Yvan Curkovic. It was a goal Reims deserved, even though they went into the match without top scorer Carlos Bianchi, who is negotiating a transfer.

But that was the signal for Saint-Etienne to bring the 45,454 crowd in the Parc des Princes to life for the first time, as they fought back.

In the 76th minute it seemed they had equalised. Hervé Revelli, looking for his fourth cup-winners' medal, slipped the ball into the net. Reims appealed for offside, but top referee Georges Konrath allowed the goal . . . until the players were well on their way back to their places, when he decided to agree with the linesman after all.

Now it was Saint-Etienne's turn to protest — and they did it in the most effective manner, by keeping their composure and scoring the winning goals in the last five minutes.

In the 85th Gerard Farison raced through from left back and was shoved over by Maselaux. Dominique Bathenay hit home the penalty. And with extra time looming Alain Merchadier stormed forward from right back to head in the winner.

Reims' coach Pierre Flamion just couldn't believe it . . .

Saint-Etienne: Curkovic — Merchadier, Lopez, Piazza, Farison — Santini, Janvion, Bathenay — Rocheteau, H. Revelli, P. Revelli.

Reims: Lavdu — Maselaux, Duboul, Durand, Bulsset — Polanick, Ravier, Betta — Santamaria, Gianetta (Maufroy 73), Ducuing.

PANATHINAIKOS won the Greek Cup, beating PAOK of Salonika 2-1 in the final in Athens and setting up a marvellous return to club soccer for Kazimierz Gorski.

The former Poland manager, who took over in mid season, had turned Panathinaikos into league leaders by the time the Cup Final came along and the win over PAOK thus made them more than ever favourites to achieve the double.

Names in the news

ROBERTO RIVELINO, Brazil's 31-year-old schemer, celebrated his 100th international by scoring the late equaliser in the 1-1 draw with West Germany in Rio de Janeiro. By the time the World Cup Finals come round Rivelino should be overtaking Bobby Moore's 108-cap total and setting a record. His closest pursuer is Sweden's Bjorn Nordqvist, who played his 96th international in the 1-0 win over Norway.

* * *

JOACHIM STREICH, Magdeburg's 26-year-old centre forward, finished the East German season with one pleasant memory and one painful. With 17 goals he was the first division's top scorer, but in one of the last games, against Sachsenring Zwickau, he suffered a broken arm in a 3-0 win. Streich left Hansa Rostock for Magdeburg two years ago. Magdeburg were second in the league, while Dynamo Dresden took the Cup and league double.

* * *

JEAN-MICHEL LARQUE'S days with Saint-Etienne are numbered. After being dropped twice this season he met Daniel Hechter, couturier boss of Paris Saint-Germain. Hechter welcomed Larque with open arms and offered him a choice: become player-coach, or coach, or player. Larque's relationship with Saint-Etienne coach Robert Herbin has soured over the past three months, despite Saint-Etienne topping 100 home games without defeat and thrashing new champions Nantes 5-1 in the Cup semi-finals.

* * *

CARLOS ALBERTO, captain and right back of the Brazilian 1970 World Cup-winners, has lately made a remarkable comeback. He had gone into semi-retirement after Mexico, but switched with success to the centre of defence and now figures in Claudio Coutinho's plans for Argentina.

* * *

RAMON MULLER, an Argentine-born midfielder, was nominal centre forward with Nantes when they won the French championship in 1965 and 1966. Now Nantes are champions again and in attack feature a 19-year-old named Oscar Muller — Ramon's son.

Scot's title

SCOTLAND made sure of retaining the British international championship when they beat England deservedly at Wembley, by 2-1 — England's goal came from a late penalty, converted by Mike Channon.

England started poorly in the tournament, despite beating Northern Ireland in Belfast, and the Scots took a game to get into their stride, being held to a goalless draw in Wales.

However the midweek results, with the Scots thrashing the Irish and Wales surprisingly beating England thanks to a Leighton James penalty at Wembley just before half-time, meant that England were virtually out of the title hunt.

Wales needed to win away to Northern Ireland to hope to win the title outright for the first time in 40 years, but in fact after being held 1-1 on the Friday night, saw Scotland overtake them thanks to victory over England.

Virtually the only memorable incidents of a dull tournament were the way the Scots fans swarmed over the Wembley pitch, digging up lumps of turf for souvenirs and shattering the goal posts, in their delight at victory over the 'Auld Enemy.'

Aside from those unpleasant excesses, winning the title was an excellent start for Scotland's new team manager, Ally MacLeod, who took over from Willie Ormond just before the tournament. Ormond had resigned after just over four years to return to club soccer as manager of Hearts.

Northern Ireland 1 (McGrath 5)
England 2 (Channon 28, Tueart 85)
Belfast: 35,000. HT: 1-1.

Wales 0
Scotland 0
Cardiff: 25,000.

England 0
Wales 1 (James 44 pen)
Wembley: 48,000. HT: 0-1.

Scotland 3 (Dalglish 36, 80, McQueen 61)
Northern Ireland 0
Glasgow: 44,699. HT: 1-0.

Northern Ireland 1 (Nelson 46)
Wales 1 (Deacy 26)
Belfast: 18,000. HT: 0-1.

England 1 (Channon 87 pen)
Scotland 2 (McQueen 42, Dalglish 61)
Wembley: 100,000. HT: 0-1.

ALSO RANS

THE ALSO RANS in group two met in Luxembourg in a poor game, watched by 1,500 and in which Finland beat their hosts 1-0.

The game provided little of note for watching Italian manager Enzo Bearzot, though it did provide Luxembourg's 36-year-old skipper and sweeper Louis Pilot, with his 50th cap.

Unfortunately for Pilot's hopes of a win to celebrate, most of the chances went to the Finns. Di Domenico did force two good saves from Goran Enckelmann. But before that Suomalainen headed wide for the Finns and later, in the 58th minute, Mukka Toivola swung over the centre which Aki Heiskanen headed in for the only goal of the game.

Luxembourg. — Zender — Barthel (Orlot 62), Mond, Pilot, Fandel — Krecke (Margue h-t), Di Domenico, Zwang — Braun, Dussier, Michaux.
Finland. — Enckelmann — Heikinen, Tolsa, Rantula, Vihtilae — Jantunen, Suomalainen, Toivola (Niaminen 53) — Rissanen, Heiskanen, (Hasalovi 80).

RUDOLF VYTLACIL

RUDOLF VYTLACIL, who died recently aged 65, will be remembered mainly for guiding Czechoslovakia to the World Cup Final in Chile in 1962, where they lost 3-1 to Brazil.

But in fact Vytlacil, who had been in poor health for some time, should also be remembered as one of those fine Central European players whose careers were ruined by war.

Vytlacil was, before the second world war, a star left-winger with the great Slavia of Prague, helping them to win the Mitropa Cup twice. He was a left winger with fine acceleration and a powerful shot.

After the war, now 34, he soon turned to coaching. But it wasn't until the Czech team featuring Josef Masopust reached those heights in Chile that he achieved international recognition. Later he was for a short spell manager of Bulgaria.

UMBERTO BARBERIS, one of Switzerland's outstanding players, won't be moving from Servette for some time to come — despite the hopes of some German and French clubs. He's just signed a contract keeping him in Geneva until 1982.

* * *

DIETER MULLER led the high scorers who rounded off the season, with four goals for Köln against Bochum . . . HANS CORNIOLEY hit for three for Basle away to Grasshoppers . . . RAINER SACHSE three for Dynamo Dresden against Wismut . . . BELA VARADI three for Vasas against Haladas . . . and DUDU GEORGESCU, hoping to hang on to the Golden Boot, hit four for Dynamo Bucharest against Sportul.

* * *

IVAN TOPLAK became the second Yugoslav manager sacked inside 12 months, when he was ousted after the shock 2-0 World Cup defeat by Rumania. Ante Mladinic, now with Partizan, left after the Slavs, despite the advantage of being hosts, finished fourth in last summer's European championship finals.

St. Etienne players celebrate their winning goal in the French Cup Final against Reims.

EARLY DEFEAT FOR POLAND

WITH the World Cup 12 months away, it was hardly surprising to find European nations beating a path to the New World.

With France and Yugoslavia the later visitors, but West Germany, England and Scotland all crossing each other paths between Rio, Buenos Aires and Montevideo, it was left to Poland to start the ball rolling.

This they did with an unfortunate 3-1 defeat before 60,000 in the Boca Juniors Bombonera stadium. This was the first test for Argentina since the disappointments of the Real Madrid tournament, and with two goals from Daniel Ricardo Bertoni (41 penalty, and 72) and one from River Plate's Leopoldo Luque (54) they hit back well after Grzegorz Lato put Poland ahead in 32 minutes.

Oddly, Argentina would also drop the first goal to West Germany, England and Scotland.

Cesar Luis Menotti, the Argentines' 39-year-old manager, would come under increasing pressure as his 'old-style' team failed to sweep all before them and the crowd — naturally enough in the Boca stadium — chanted for his replacement by their own hero, our old friend Juan Carlos Lorenzo.

Argentina. — Gatti — Pavoni, Olguin, Killer, Carrascosa — Ardiles, Gallego, Villa (Bochini 59) — Bertoni, Luque, Ortiz (Larrosa 60).

Poland. — Tomaszewski — Dziuba, Zmuda, Kasperczak, Rudy — Boniek (Nawalka 44), Deyna, Masztaler — Lato, Szarmach, Terlecki (Mazur 59).

The Poles then went on to Lima, where before 22,000 they dominated against Peru, to win 3-1. The Peruvians were without defender Hector Chumpitaz, about to return from Mexico, and midfielder Teofilio Cubillas, who had only just returned to soccer after four months out injured.

Even so, this result didn't augur well for their World Cup play-off with Brazil and Bolivia. Skipper and sweeper Julio Melendez, now 37, was struggling in defence.

Andrzej Szarmach put Poland ahead after 17 minutes, and Kazimierz Deyna got a second two minutes later. Peru substitute Alejandro Luces — he came on for Hugo Sotil — pulled one back in the 63rd, before Torribio Diaz diverted a Henryk Kaszperczak shot into his own net barely 60 seconds later.

Peru: Quiroga — Soria (Navarro), Melendez, Duarte (Escobar), Diaz — Velazquez, Sotil (Luces), Quesada — Ramirez, Rojas, Oblitas.

Poland: Tomaszewski (Szovieski) — Dziuba, Zmuda, Ludygs, Kasperczak — Boniek, Deyna, Masztaler — Lato, Szarmach (Mazur), Terlecki.

Two days later Poland also beat the other World Cup qualifier group hopefuls, Bolivia, in La Paz. Jimenez and Lato goals meant 1-1 at half-time, but Zdzislaw Kapka sneaked the winner for Poland a minute from time.

After that the Poles had two men sent off in a 1-1 draw with the club side Gody Cruz in Mendoza, Argentina (Deyna got the goal), then went to Sao Paulo for the climax to the tour — against Brazil.

Before a 90,000 crowd, the Poles went down 3-1 to Brazil's most complete performance for a year. The Poles only got into the game after Pintinho was substituted for Roberto Rivelino in the Brazilian midfield, midway through the second half.

After Jan Tomaszewski made several good early saves, Paulo Isodoro put Brazil ahead in the 22nd minute, and the new young black star Reinaldo — manager Claudio Coutinho compares him with the great Tostao — slipped away for a second, seven minutes before half-time.

Reinaldo missed the best chance of the game, 11 minutes after the interval, but it was he who was tripped in the penalty box a minute later, when Rivelino converted the penalty for goal No 3.

New Polish star Boniek scored the Poles' consolation a minute from the end.

Names in the news

ULRICH LEFEVRE is leaving Brugge, after helping them to the double. The Dane is returning home after several years as a professional with Borussia Moenchengladbach then in Belgium. To replace him Brugge have high hopes of Frem Copenhagen's Jan Soerensen, who receives £60,000 for a two-year contract. And ready to fill the shoes of the injury-prone Raoul Lambert they hope to land Ostende's 20-goal Jan Simoen.

* * *

GUNNAR NORDAHL is one of two great players of the past with health problems. Nordhal, the Swedish centre forward who was five times Italy's top scorer with AC Milan, has suffered a heart attack and won't be back at the helm of Swedish Cup-winners AIK Stockholm for some time. ERNEST OCWIRK, nicknamed 'Clockwork' by the English when he shone in 62 Internationals for Austria as the last of the great attacking centre halves, has paralysis of the legs.

* * *

MIMIS PAPIOANNU is taking a busman's holiday playing in Australia this summer. But before the AEK Atheris veteran went Down Under he maintained a rare record of scoring Greece's only goal against Russia for the third time in three games since 1965!

* * *

GÜNTER NETZER is among more names to add to the "great retirements" list which appeared in *World Soccer* last month. Netzer has played out the last season with Grasshoppers of Zurich. Two more Swiss players are stepping down too — midfielders Kobi Kuhn and Karl Odermatt. Also retiring are top referees Jack Taylor, who took the 1974 World Cup Final, and Rudi Gloecker, the controversial East German in charge in the Mexico final in 1970.

* * *

EMIL OESTERREICHER, former manager of Honved, Real Madrid, Torino and Espanol Barcelona, is the new supremo at Schalke, making strenuous efforts to rebuild both on and off the pitch after the settling of the bribery scandal. One man leaving Schalke is Yugoslav midfielder, Brane Oblak, bound for Bayern Munich along with Tennis Borussia's Berlin's Swedish striker, Benny Wendt.

England in South America...report by Bria

LITTLE chance for England to qualify for South America next year. Little hope that Don Revie can recover his nerve and lead the team into a period of more productive football. Every fear that there will be carnage in Argentina on if not off the football field in the World Cup. Encouraging news that Claudio Coutinho, Brazil's personable young manager, is a devoted reader of WORLD SOCCER — not least of Eric Batty — which he considers the best football magazine that exists.

Coutinho's Brazil will clearly be a strong contender in Argentina next year, even if there is still a good deal to be done, especially at the front. But the midfield is so talented and forceful that it is hard to see the team failing to give a decent account of itself.

Toninho Cerezo, the new man from Atletico Minheiro, shows the power, the pace and the drive, not to mention the skill, to fill the whole left by the passing of Clodoaldo. Rivelino, at 31, has at last reached the high plateau he has been promising to reach since those early days of rivalry with Gerson for the position of midfield orchestrator.

The long passes he hit against England at the Maracana, his splendid sleight of foot, his tremendous finishing, all stamp him as a far more effective player than he looked a year ago in Los Angeles, when he seemed, though neat, suave and effective, to be husbanding now unlimited resources.

Then there is Zico, essentially an attacking player operating in the midfield, one who does tend, perhaps, to carry the ball, but to splendid purpose. His accelerations, his lightning dribbles from behind the front line into the box, make him a splendid adjunct to the other two, a splendid support to the attack even if he does not play consistently throughout the ninety minutes.

The front line is much more problematical and it seems to me here, rather than in any other department, that Brazil might fail to win the Cup in 1978. There is no obvious centre-forward or right winger, positions in which the Brazilian World Cup winning teams of 1958, 62 and 70 were so strong.

Gil, the right winger who scored a number of goals in the Bicentennial Tournament last year, has been publicly protesting that Coutinho has diminished his effectiveness by obliging him to stay out on the right wing, rather than cut into the middle. The truth of the matter is that this was precisely what made him ineffectual against England, when Trevor Cherry, in remarkable form on the tour, forced him time and time again to run across the field, putting him on his weaker left foot.

Coutinho has been held up to scorn in certain quarters of the Press for his use of terms, much as Walter Winterbottom once used to be in this country. Such expressions as "polyvalent" and "future point" have been particularly lampooned.

When I spoke to the elegant and polyglot Coutinho, however, he informed me that all he was trying to do was to bring the Brazilians into line with modern European football. He didn't just want a left back, for instance, to attack down the left, but also to go down the right. But it was hard to convince Brazilian players to change their ways. An outside-right, asked to operate at times at centre-forward, would reply, "But I'm an outside-right!"

"Polyvalent" simply means an all purpose player. "Future point" refers to the open space where the ball will arrive.

Coutinho has particular problems, first because he is a Rio man now, manager of Flamengo, the city's most popular club, second because he came into football not by the old, direct route,

BRAZIL MOVE TOWARDS WORLD CUP

but through the world of the Army and physical culture. Sao Paolo critics lament that he just doesn't see their city's players: but then that rivalry is almost as old as Brazilian football itself. Coutinho points out that his predecessor, Osvaldo Brandao, a Sao Paolo man attacked by the Rio critics, did little in terms of tactical preparation, and was picked on for his poor Portuguese.

My own feeling is that much will depend on whether, in the intervening year, Coutinho can find a centre-forward (though Reinaldo, who played and scored against Poland, could fit the bill) and a right winger. There are various young players in the

Kevin Keegan leads out England.

England defend their goal.

Glanville...pictures by Peter Robinson

England's defensive wall is not enough to stop Bertoni from scoring for Argentina in Buenos Aires.

offing, but we know that it tends to take time for the Brazilians to bring a new player into their squad (Amarildo, in 1962, was the exception to prove the rule.) Meanwhile, Roberto won't really do, Marinho will probably be needed to reinforce the attack with his runs, but Luis "Chevrolet" Perreira will have to curb his Katalinski-like incursions if he is not to be something of a danger to his own defence. His popularity in Spain may just have gone a little to his head.

In Buenos Aires, I spoke at length to Cesar Luis Menotti who, like Enzo Bearzot in the same city, decried the defeatist tactics, the un-English caution, the sheer joylessness of Revie's prosaic teams. Menotti thinks he will bring three men at the most back from Europe, and there seems some chance that the blond Carlos Babington may return from Wattenscheid in the West German Second division — light hidden under a bushel indeed — to play for the River Plate.

Menotti emphasised to me the accent he is putting on skill, though as he says he expects any young man who eats well and trains properly to be sufficiently fit and combative. The worrying thing was his apologia after the Scotland game, when he endeavoured to defend his team's inexcusable behaviour with irrelevant, *tu quoque*, attacks on the Scottish supporters at Wembley. Could it be, one felt and feared, that the shadow of Juan Carlos Lorenzo — whom I met fleetingly in the Continental Hotel — was brooding over him with malign results?

The look-out for 1978 is very bad at the moment, even if Menotti, with his pronounced preference for artistic over physical football, stays. Argentinian players, as Trevor Cherry and Willie Johnston will tell you, just don't take kindly to frustration in front of their own, intolerant crowd, and their natural skill is alas complemented by a natural tendency to violence.

When this, in turn, is complemented by the kind of cowardly refereeing seen in the England and Scotland games, the sending off of victim as well as aggressor, it can be seen that serious distortion could occur. FIFA must take this bull very firmly and quickly by the horns.

In Uruguay, my old friend Professor Omar Borras has taken over a bemused and mediocre national team: for the moment. Like Coutinho, he was formerly the side's physical trainer, and he is in fact a university professor who has taken on the broader job of reorganising all Uruguayan football.

A kind, honest, humorous, intelligent, capable man, we must wish him luck and success in his difficult job, though I am sure Uruguayan football will rise again. It has never failed to do so in the past: although never in the past has the country been in such a dire way, politically and economically.

Meanwhile there is Revie muttering about 4-4-2 being an attacking formation, while, as Menotti said, using Keegan as a virtual half-back. The form of Cherry, the lively, gifted emergence of the admirable Ray Wilkins, were consolations. But Heaven knows, England and their supporters need them in superabundance.

Trevor Cherry after being sent off.

A dental examination for Cherry.

Liverpool were worthy victors but no super team says ERIC BATTY

LEAN SPELL LIES AHEAD

AS A critic of present-day football it is always nice when, for example, a team like Holland comes to Wembley and shows everyone exactly what REAL FOOTBALL can be like.

For all the superlatives used by the popular press to extol the virtues of players with Manchester United, Liverpool, Ipswich, etc., the British public immediately recognises real class when it sees it and is not slow to applaud it either.

It was like that in 1953 when, twice within a few weeks, we had the FIFA XI with Ladislav Kubala, Gerhard Hanappi and Giampiero Boniperti, Gunnar Nordahl, etc., show England how to play (even though they only drew 4-4) and then soon afterwards the Hungarians came to trounce England by 6-3. The English responded in true sporting fashion, giving the visitors tremendous applause — and talking about them for weeks afterwards.

Yet somehow they seem to have short memories, helped no doubt by TV and the press who slowly but surely manage to convince them that players who do well for their clubs in the English League really are as good as the foreigners. The delights of seeing Puskas, Hidegkuti and Kocsis are therefore forgotten and only a few of us remember just what it was like and keep that for future reference as a yardstick.

In my opinion it is not really the fault of the English (and Scottish and Welsh) soccer-watching public. They are brain-washed and one can only sympathise with them. But it does make my task of trying to persuade the British that we have to change our ways that much more difficult.

As a sideline to this I was in Holland earlier this season and had two glimpses into the Dutch game as seen by fans in Holland.

At FC Twente, the new Dutch Cup winners, manager Spitz Kohn said: "The Dutch fans recently saw an English league game between Liverpool and Ipswich and are asking . . . 'Why can't we play like that?'"

At a more personal level I was myself in Holland, in Rotterdam, and on another similar occasion in Bruges when highlights of an English European competition game were shown locally. On both occasions, the hotel staff and visitors alike were crowded round the TV set, and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

All this stacks up very peculiarly when one realises that since we saw Ajax at their best on our TV screens, saw Holland in the 1974 World Cup, and then saw Holland in the flesh at Wembley, English fans are rightly asking "WHY CANNOT WE PLAY LIKE THE DUTCH?"

The short answer is that Dutch fans have become disenchanted with their own domestic game since their top players began to go abroad. With Feyenoord and Ajax failing to produce teams and players equal to their giants of the very recent past, attendances at Dutch league games have dipped tremendously. Brought up on top quality, the Dutch will not buy what they see as sub-standard goods.

Yet it is very strange that while the English admire the Dutch game, the Dutch fans like the English way of playing.

Of course while Ajax were at their super best there was no discussion. Dutch fans packed into the stadia to see every Ajax game and in Rotterdam with a 65,000 capacity there was always a flourishing black market in tickets when Feyenoord were really good.

Generally speaking, the only countries in Western Europe where the fans appear to be satisfied with their own standard of play seem to me to be West Germany, Belgium and Spain. But the West Germans are clearly going to drop down a few pegs with the departure of Franz Beckenbauer for the USA and the eclipse of Borussia Monchengladbach in the European Cup Final.

Of the final itself, Liverpool created something of a surprise with their calm and short passing approach play in the first half-hour After Borussia equalised they seemed to me to lose a lot of their poise and go back to their long ball as seen in English games though they scored a very fine opening goal, engineered by Heighway and scored by McDermott who ran very intelligently looking for the through ball. In fact, though most people seem to rave about Kevin Keegan, I prefer Steve Heighway's talents to those of Keegan, and in my opinion a key man in Liverpool's successes has been Terry McDermott who has improved enormously — so much so that I think he looks out of place with Liverpool whose normal style that we are so accustomed to is to have everyone steaming about like mad-men for 90 minutes, and McDermott is too good a player to do that.

If Liverpool were worthy victors of Borussia Monchengladbach on the night in Rome it is clear that they are no super team to compare with some of the masterly sides that have won the European Cup before them. These to me are Real Madrid of the Di Stefano-Puskas era; Benfica (before Eusebio went into decline); FC Internazionale, who had two really good years with Luis Suarez the key man but they had already blown out when they beat Benfica 1-0 in the 1965 final at S Siro and were "long gone" when Celtic be them. Then came two more almost unbeat ble sides in Ajax (until Cruyff went to Spai and of course Bayern Munchen led Beckenbauer and Muller.

Unfortunately for Borussia Monchengla bach their European chance came a year t late. If they had played in the 1975-76 seri they could well have won the trophy and be hailed as a new super team.

Certainly they played some great footb in 1976-77 with a fine show that I saw in t second leg of their semi-final with Dynam Kiev but they were better a year earli because at that time they were getting goo far more easily.

Then, of course, they had the Danish st Flemming Jensen at centre-forward who w transferred to Real Madrid in July, 1976, a never replaced. From then on too much f on the shoulders of one man — Ju Heynckes.

Underlines

Heynckes finished the 1976-77 *Bundesli* campaign as Borussia's top scorer with goals but due to a cartilage operation he w out of the game for almost six months of t season. That he should be top scorer in the circumstances , underlines how much means to Borussia, and of course he simp wasn't fit for the final with Liverpool w virtually had only ten men to beat.

Borussia also lost the considerable servic of Herbert Wimmer through injury early the game — not an injury inflicted by Live pool, but one that he took into the game wi him from an earlier battle. Neverthele Borussia missed his calm head in midfield a overall it seems clear that Borussia coach U Lattek gambled on Wimmer and Heyncke Gambled and lost.

Action from the European Cup Final with Liverpool full back Phil Neal making a successful tackle.

But it wasn't only Borussia who had to play without key players in vital European Cup games. In fact the 1976-77 European campaign was probably the most injury-plagued one of all time.

One of the best teams in the competition was FC Bruges and they went out to Borussia Monchengladbach on a night when their top scorer Raoul Lambert wasn't fit. Bruges boss Ernst Happel played Lambert, but it was so clear in the first half that he was a passenger that he was replaced at the interval and Bruges went out, 2-2 away and 0-1 at home.

Dynamo Kiev were another much fancied side who accounted for Bayern Munchen in the quarter-finals. But Bayern, the holders of the European Cup for the three previous years, had to meet the Russians without Gerd Muller who was out, recovering from an operation on his back. Bayern only lost 1-2 on aggregate and it seems more than likely that had he been fit, then Bayern could have beaten Dynamo.

As it was, Dynamo, in their turn, had to play Borussia Monchengladbach in the semi-finals without centre-forward and captain Victor Kolotov who is not a bad player at all. Though of course Borussia were without Heynckes too.

Not many years ago it was the midfield generals who were the key men but today with all the kicking of goal-getters that goes on . . . watched by largely disinterested referees, it is the goalscorers who have become the vital players, and in critical matches most of the top teams suffered and lost in the 1976-77 European Cup.

I make no secret of the fact that I was disappointed that Borussia didn't win the European Cup for it was from them that I saw the best football of last season with quality and class about everything they did.

True they didn't show it against Liverpool, but they remain in my opinion the best *football* team in Europe, and had Heynckes been fully fit I am sure they would have proved it in Rome.

Borussia had an extremely difficult path to the final compared to Liverpool. After beating FK Austria who are very ordinary, Borussia had really tough ties against Torino the Italian champions (and even won in Italy); FC Bruges who are a very good side, and Dynamo Kiev.

Liverpool on the other hand could not have asked for easier opposition.

Crusaders (from the Republic of Ireland), Trabzonspor (Turkey), St. Etienne and Switzerland's part-timers FC Zurich in the semi-finals were Liverpool's opponents and of them only St. Etienne are anything at all. Even then, Liverpool got a bonus in the clash with St. Etienne for the French club had to take a slender 1-0 lead to Anfield without the considerable services of their best player, the Argentinian sweeper Oswaldo Piazza who was suspended.

Now, with Borussia's Heynckes already 32 and Bayern losing Beckenbauer and having Gerd Muller in sight of his 32nd birthday it is difficult to pick out a really outstanding team lined up for the 1977-78 version of the European Cup.

I fear we are in for a lean spell without a super team like Ajax, Real Madrid (of 1958-60 vintage) that we can point to and say . . . "we must all try to play like them."

We had such a spell like this before, between 1963 and 1970 when quite ordinary teams like Real Madrid (in 1966), Celtic, Manchester United and Feyenoord all won the European Cup just once. Looking into my crystal ball I can see another lean spell in store . . . and the immediate future at top level looks grim.

FINAL QUOTES

BOB PAISLEY: "This was a tremendous performance after such a heavy programme. We've played 17 games in six weeks and to play as we did tonight, and come back and win Keegan as we had to after Borussia equalised, was terrific."

You surprised many people by slowing the game down:

"Well, we did this deliberately to save our energy and make sure we got everything right. Case's mistake was our first and about the only one, too."

Does this win say anything about England's World Cup chances?

"It hasn't done English football any harm."

What about the world club cup?

"I'll have to think about that. I'd prefer the Super Cup really because of the English programme. With 42 league games in a season for a start it wouldn't help us to have to go to South America."

Can you replace Keegan?

"Losing a good player always causes problems for a while. But if he goes, life will go on. His place will be filled and we'll come through. There's nothing definite yet about his transfer, but I gather there are due to be talks this weekend. I haven't considered it much because the matches we've been playing have had to take priority."

UDO LATTEK: "We were a bit afraid of Liverpool, I think, and made too many mistakes. We missed a lot of chances and when we started to attack seriously it was too late."

You've beaten Torino and lost to Liverpool, can you make any forecasts for England's World Cup chances?

"I don't think it's possible to compare club with national teams. For instance, England can't play Heighway."

Were you disappointed with Borussia's display?

"Well, if we had played our normal game, as we can, we don't know what the result might have been. But let me say that tonight Liverpool were the best of the two teams and fully deserved to win."

KEVIN KEEGAN: "For 10 minutes in the second half I was really worried, and Ray Clemence had to make a great save. We lost control then, but for the other 80 minutes we dominated. In fact, we didn't expect to dominate so much. We were surprised at half-time that they hadn't thrown more back at us."

What about your future?

"Well, I don't want to talk about that tonight. This is Liverpool's night and we want to savour it. But, yes, I will be leaving. That's definite."

EMLYN HUGHES: "We didn't expect to get it so easy. I don't think they were as interested in getting a goal as early as we were. Everything was perfect — our fans, the conditions, the pitch . . . It makes up for Wembley."

EUROPEAN CUP FINAL SPECIAL

KOP RULE IN ROME ...OK!

LIVERPOOL may have narrowly missed out on the treble, losing the FA Cup Final, but that didn't stop their jubilant fans almost literally painting the town red when the Anfield army battered down the defences of Borussia Moenchengladbach to commandeer the cherished Champions' Cup.

You would hardly have known any German supporters turned up, so did the red scarves, hats, banners and flags dominate the eternal city.

It all went to prove one thing — that though the Beatles and their imitators may be a far-off part of pop music history, the Liverpool sound survives . . . in the Kop at Anfield, the most fanatical collection of all.

You might hear more gentlemanly, fair-minded applause at a number of other British grounds. But for fervour, wit and (generally) good behaviour all rolled into one seething mass of humanity there is nothing to touch the mighty band of fans in the Kop End at Liverpool. And it's not only the home players who say so.

One of Gordon Banks's first league games in the season which followed England's 1966 World Cup win was at Liverpool. As he ran to his goal at the start, so the Koppites gave him a storming ovation.

"I'll never forget that as long as I live," said the greatest of England's latter-day goalkeepers afterwards.

Another goalkeeper who won't forget the Kop, but for a different reason is Yvan Curkovic, the 33-year-old Yugoslav with Saint-Etienne. Curkovic is a vastly experienced international. He was playing for his country 10 years ago and was called on a couple of seasons back to help coach France's own up-and-coming goalkeepers.

Yet even Curkovic, his nerves tempered in the cauldrons of European competition, couldn't resist the Kop when Saint-Etienne went to Liverpool in the second leg of the Champions' Cup quarter-finals.

And it wasn't as if the electric atmosphere should have surprised him. Saint-Etienne's general manager, Pierre Garonnaire, had spied out Anfield several times and though he told his players they had nothing to fear from Liverpool's team, he emphasised: "The only thing I fear for you is the Kop."

Garonnaire, the man who discovered many of Saint-Etienne's stars in junior soccer, explained: "The passion and the volume of sound can freeze a player's mind. We are experienced in Europe, but that could happen even to us. The Kop is so impressive."

Thus warned and forearmed Saint-Etienne took a mere one-goal lead with them, determined to hold on. But the road to hell is paved with such good intentions, and this was to prove a hellish night for Curkovic.

After only two minutes Kevin Keegan swung in across from out near the corner flag. The noise, the atmosphere, the fury of the sound over and roundabout him put Curkovic in a panic. Wildly he jumped and flapped at the ball . . . and it curled into the net.

Curkovic was destroyed. For the rest of the match he was a bundle of nerves. And it didn't help that every time the ball came remotely near his penalty area the crowd bayed even more ominously in eager anticipation of more mistakes. Under all that pressure Curkovic fidgeted unhappily. He ran out when he should have stayed on his line, he waited for Liverpool's forwards to engulf him when he should have been out to the crosses.

The effect on the rest of the French defence, already shellshocked themselves, can be easily imagined. They had to spend more time than they wished shoring up their defence when they needed to go for goals.

Jimmy Case (8) in action for Liverpool.

There is no other conclusion at the end of Saint-Etienne's 3-1 defeat. Even Liverpool fans admitted the French were the more skilful, but . . . the Kop had brought Liverpool a goal, and given a goal start by their fans, the Reds just can't be denied.

It's a built-in advantage which has lifted them to a record 10 championships, and with the the recent 0-0 draw against West Ham in front of a capacity crowd, they had completed the first leg of the treble.

Behind all that, like background music, was the sound of the Kop. It may have a withering effect on opponents, but on Liverpool's own players it provides a tonic, lifting them on wings of sound to one triumph after another.

And the Kop can travel too.

Within a day or two of the semi-final victory over Zurich, travel agents reported that fans had already spent £1 million in booking trains to Rome for the final. Some package holidays had been booked out months in advance — that's how much faith the fans have in their team.

Celebrating Liverpool fans.

Story by Keir Radnedge

Pictures by Peter Robinson

England and Liverpool goalkeeper Ray Clemence.

It's a faith which extends to worship.

In the midsixties, when Ian St. John was centre-forward, a religious poster appeared in Anfield Road, demanding: "What will be your answer when the Lord comes?"

Someone had scrawled underneath: "Move St. John to inside-left."

English humour, perhaps, typical Liverpool humour too. Why the Kop has become so renowned is not just because of shattering sound and the semi-religious fervour they can put into a pop hymn such as "You'll never walk alone," but the spontaneous wit which burgeons match after match.

Perhaps it wasn't so sharp early in the defeat of Zurich, when the fans could merely chant: "Everton, Everton you are next," in anticipation of the FA Cup semi-final against their neighbours and deadly rivals. But later in that Zurich game, as the certain victory — Liverpool had, after all, won 3-1 in Switzerland already — induced boredom, the fans started setting their own words to Italian tunes.

For those with long memories it evoked memories of the stirring night 12 years ago when Liverpool beat European champions Internazionale of Milan 3-1 at Anfield in the semi-finals with the fans adding the words "Go back to Italy" to the tune of Santa Lucia.

The humour was repeated in Rome, most strikingly in the large red banner adorned with praise for the latest of the Kop's heroes, Wales' left-back Joey Jones. As it was raised at the end of the European final everyone could read the words: "First he ate the frogs' legs, then he made the Swiss role, now he's munching Gladbachs".

Liverpool's fans aren't just from the north-east. Saving and spending to follow them to Rome were young people from the south coast resorts, from London, from the West Country. Liverpool were the lure for all of them. Partly it was because they enjoyed the vicarious link with success, consistent success.

But one 19-year-old told me: "I went to Liverpool once and stood on the Kop. And, after that, you're never the same again. It just gets under your skin, it's like a drug. It becomes part of you. You just go on following the team from there. Standing on the Kop is like no experience on earth."

● *Continued overleaf*

Terry McDermott (centre) for Liverpool.

Emlyn Hughes leads out Liverpool.

European Cup Final Special

Continued from previous page

A little young, perhaps, to be so definitive about life, but the estimate is that 25,000 of Liverpool's hordes spent £2.5 million going to Rome and, on top of that, another £500,000 going to London four days before to watch the undeserved 2-1 FA Cup Final defeat by Manchester United, which ruined the treble chance.

Liverpool secretary Peter Robinson said: "I don't think the fans of any other English club would have paid so much in such a short time. It's phenomenal."

One fan told me in Rome: "We've been on strike where I work, for several weeks. I've got hardly any money, but I'd already booked to come and see the lads in the final. As long as I've got enough to get home from the airport I couldn't care less."

The Kop is remarkable, too, in that where so many English crowds have earned a reputation of infamy through hooliganism, its members are generally well-behaved, if boisterous. Still, that isn't stopping the club putting steel fencing around the pitch next season.

Chairman John Smith said: "It will soon be obligatory for all clubs to put fencing up if they want to enter European competitions. We want to be part of Europe, so we're just anticipating events."

Railings, however, won't quell the excitement when Liverpool are at home and going for goals.

Phil Boersma, whose first trips to Anfield were as a kid to stand on the Kop, then later to play in front of it before going to Middlesbrough for £72,000, said: "Unless you're going forward, the Kop aren't happy."

So, though the fans give so much to Liverpool's players, it's a two-way relationship. In return the players are expected to keep pressing, keep attacking and maintain the non-stop pressure throughout a full 90 minutes which has brought so many important goals in the late stages of a game when the opposition have been worn into submission.

In late 1975 the team faltered for a while on their way to the league title. The tempo slowed and the Kop too quietened. The fans even grew a little sulky; there were the occasional jeers. That made everyone sit up and take notice!

As the players admitted: "The coaches or the managers or the Press can criticise whenever they like . . . but when the Kop goes quiet we know we've got to do something about it."

There haven't been any such problems this past season. Liverpool went from strength to strength and the shock 5-1 defeat away to Aston Villa early on — their heaviest for 10 years — is just a fading memory now.

They are European champions, English champions and FA Cup runners-up. You couldn't ask much more.

Liverpool parade the European Cup with Tommy Smith (left) and Ian Callaghan.

'POOL ARE MAGIC

Yet even familiarity with success breeds a little contempt. After making sure of the championship against West Ham, Liverpool's players ran to the Kop with the league trophy, pursued by manager Bob Paisley — still in his grey suit, grey tie and flecked white shirt as if he'd just come from a wedding. But there was, said Kevin Keegan, a feeling of anti-climax.

But Keegan, after all, faced the imminent prospect of a transfer to Spain or West Germany — a move he had determined on a year ago to make the most (cash) from his talents. Perhaps his thoughts were elsewhere.

The Kop won't miss him for long. For some time past they ceased chanting his name. They've seen heroes come and go over the years since Liverpool became famous with the Beatles and the footballers.

The Beatles made the bigger splash at the time, but it's the football team whose persistence has brought a longer continuity of success as gradually over the seasons original heroes of the Beatles era such as centre-half and skipper Ron Yeats, winger Peter Thompson and striker Roger Hunt have been superceded.

They were the stars in 1964 when Liverpool, only recently returned to the First Division, won the championship for the first time since 1947. English football didn't know what had hit it. The name of Liverpool represented more than a team, it stood for a teenage revolution, the envy of every other club in the land and not a few beyond.

I remember driving towards Brussels late one night from France, en route from one European tie to another. On a little back road in a forest I came to a clearing and a customs post. The duty officer stepped out, took one look at the international registration plate on the car, and beamed: "Ah . . . GB . . . English . . . Liverpool . . . Beatles!"

Just as the Liverpool sound made a killing in the pop world, the football team followed in its wake into Europe — but without ever reaching No. 1 until 1973, when they won the UEFA Cup, the competition manager Bill Shankly claimed never to have heard of . . . "after all, we'll never be playing for it."

Shankly has been one of the great characters of post-war British soccer. He had won five Scotland caps as a wing half in the 1930s with Preston, but it's for his single-minded devotion to the Liverpool cause that he'll be remembered.

His immersion in soccer and Liverpool soccer in particular, which he maintained from 1959 until an abrupt retirement three years ago, has become legendary.

Someone once told him: "Soccer is like a life-and-death issue to you, isn't it?"

His reply: "No . . . it's much more serious than that."

Shankly would never accept there was a better team anywhere than Liverpool. In Amsterdam in 1966 Liverpool crashed 5-1 away to Ajax in the fog. The match should never have been played; they claimed though the murky evening air didn't worry Johan Cruyff, Hent Groot or Bennie Muller. Yet that didn't prevent Shankly forecasting vengeance in the return.

It wasn't forthcoming. Liverpool were held 2-2 at Anfield — but that supreme confidence in the ability of his team to achieve anything, even miracles, portrayed the spirit of the man and the sides he had built, even though that second tilt at the Champions' Cup had ended in the second round.

In Rome, at the Press conference after the game, I saw Shankly tucked in alongside some of the English journalists listening intently to the questions and answers . . . answers from Bob Paisley, the 57-year-old sitting up in the glare of the television lights when Shankly could so easily have been himself.

Kevin Keegan (7) with his close-marker Berti Vogts during the European Cup Final.

Shankly had pushed Liverpool on towards the present pinnacle despite the inevitable defeats which lay along his own European path.

There were nail-biting victories, too, of course — such as that night in Rotterdam when Liverpool met Köln in Champions' Cup quarter-finals play-off after the two legs had finished goalless.

Those were the days before penalty deciders, away goals and substitutes. So, amid fixture chaos, the teams battled through 120 minutes with Köln fighting level with 10 men after going 2-0 down early on. The toss of a coin sent Liverpool through into the tie everyone remembers.

The opposition was provided by Internazionale, and the first leg of the 1965 semi-final took place just a couple of days after Liverpool had slogged their way through extra time again to overcome Leeds in the FA Cup Final.

Liverpool paid dearly for that. Besides the ravages of fatigue, a broken collar-bone ruled out left-back Gerry Byrne; Gordon Milne, a key figure in midfield wasn't fit either.

Instead the two paraded the Cup round the pitch before the start to work the crowd up into a frenzy, and even the tough experienced Italians were shaken by the roar from the Anfield European record attendance of 54,082.

Hunt scored one goal; Ian Callaghan — who was still there in Rome — got another; St. John another. But in between a silly defensive muddle allowed Sandro Mazzola to snatch one back and amid a storm over controversial refereeing, Liverpool were beaten 3-0 in the return and went out. Their first Champions' Cup bid had ended in bitterness in Milan's San Siro; how appropriate that it should be back in Italy that Liverpool should triumph, a long 12 years later.

But Rome was far from being Liverpool's first European final, of course. In 1966 at Hampden, having beaten rivals of the calibre of Juventus, Standard Liege, Honved and Celtic, they went down surprisingly in inevitable extra time to the Germans of Borussia Dortmund.

In the Fairs Cup, Ferencvaros, of Hungary, would puncture Liverpool's unbeaten Anfield record, another year, the toss of a coin favoured Bilbao, and later still, the new away goals rule suited Portugal's Vitoria Setubal.

By now this was a different Liverpool. Ray Clemence was now in goal, on his way to establishing himself as England's No. 1; £60,000 Emlyn Hughes, son of a Welsh rugby league player, but himself later to be England soccer captain, had arrived in midfield; Steve Heighway, a university graduate, emphasised the way the abolition of the old maximum wage limit had raised horizons all round; and a £100,000 purchase, Cardiff's John Toshack, had taken over the goal-scoring mantle from Hunt.

Leeds, then Bayern Munich, ended more European dreams, but finally the dam burst. Eintracht Frankfurt, AEK Athens, Dynamo East Berlin and Tottenham all fell aside as Liverpool marched into the 1973 UEFA Cup Final to face . . . Borussia Moenchengladbach.

No-one had breached Liverpool's defence at Anfield that season and the weather hardly promised to help the West Germans. It poured with rain most of the day and after a quarter of an hour, the first leg of the final was abandoned. For the Germans, it proved a costly dummy run. Shankly realised from those first 15 minutes that Borussia, with midfield star Günter Netzer a surprise and mistaken choice as sweeper, would be the masters if the ball stayed on the ground.

What was needed, especially in these conditions, was the much-despised "English game" — a tall man up front to aim for with long crosses.

So Shankly recalled John Toshack, the big Welshman who feared his days at Liverpool were numbered, and the next night the Germans were caught on the hop. Liverpool won 3-0, contained Borussia to 0-2 in the second leg, and, at last, had their hands on a European trophy.

Now there was no stopping them. Liverpool went on, with the addition of £30,000 bargain buy Keegan, to win the UEFA Cup again in 1975, beating Brugge 3-2, 1-1 in the final, and to come within an ace of the treble this year.

There are more new players, such as Jimmy Case — who scored a brilliant goal against Manchester United at Wembley — David Fairclough, the flame-haired 20-year-old nicknamed "Super-sub", Terry McDermott, a big-money buy from Newcastle who scored the first goal in Rome, and full-back Phil Neal, who scored the killing third with one of his penalty specials.

Already Liverpool are rebuilding. They have to. Tommy Smith, the 34-year-old who marked his 600th Liverpool game by scoring the second goal in Rome, was threatening retirement last season and clearly can't go on much longer if he does relent. Callaghan, another survivor of Liverpool's first Champions' Cup run, cannot keep running forever either. He's now 35.

But, as Paisley said, when asked in Rome whether Keegan would be hard to replace: "Life will go on".

And then he went off to join the celebrations which continued in the city of Liverpool the next day as half a million turned out to line the streets . . . and welcome their heroes home with the latest, favourite chant: "Liverpool are magic".

Leslie Vernon's European Cup diary...

Prejudiced nurse cut-price trip t Paisley, Shan superb secretar

Day 1. Monday, May 23

THE checking-in booths at Terminal 3 at Heathrow Airport seemed unusually crowded on that sunny morning, when our intrepid party gathered to 'vene, vide', and if possible, 'vici' in Rome. Our group included a few journalists, a small number of sight-seers who wanted to visit Italy on the cheap (?), but the majority were your true dyed-in-the-wool Liverpool fans.

They would have made the pilgrimage if the game was scheduled to take place in Outer Mongolia or the dullest industrial city in Western Europe. It later transpired that the crowd of ladies who so staunchly occupied the best places in that queue, and later on the Jumbo jet, were nurses of indeterminate age, on their way to a convention in Hongkong (or was it Bangkok? I can never tell the difference) they were charming to me — or rather to my judiciously selected 'World of Sport' tie, but were rather haughty and condescending towards the Liverpool fans.

"Do we have to put up with this drunken, unruly mob?" was the unspoken, but clearly discernible question on their apron-starched-hard lips. The mere fact that the lads behaved impeccably, had no relevance to their prejudice which was originated from the casual reading of bloodthirsty headlines in their local papers. I realised for the first time that English football fans 'Mark 1977' are a persecuted race. Like an ethnic minority, they are judged by their very worst representatives. Generalised condemnations confront them, and their own supposed ignorance is no greater than that of their critics.

This impression was confirmed, when on arrival, we boarded our air-conditioned coaches, only to be given a lecture by our English courier. Worthy gent, as he is, he assured us that he had signed a declaration on our behalf, which had been handed over to the Roman Police. In it, he promised that we will not defile the sanctity of the Vatican, get drunk and roll down the Spanish Steps, violate the serving wenches in the hostelries, and most of all, will not reduce the Olympic Stadium to ashes and dust.

He also told us that the Italians hate the English, and that we had better be at our seats early, because "here, they do not have much respect for tickets." Prejudices, oh, damned prejudices! Firstly, the Italians do not hate the English or anybody else in such idiotic 'wholesale' terms. If anything, they dislike each other — the Milanese do not care for the Venetians, etc.

Secondly, they do regard 'tickets' with the same respect as our guardians of the law do at Wembley. And to the prejudiced radiologist sister from Cheltenham who opined that football is a "waste of valuable time" my answer is, that since time immemorial, people who have inhabited this earth have needed a 'Game'.

In this beautiful city, where the phrase *'panem et circenses'* was invented, the wise ones knew, that when the 'panem' became harder to earn, the 'circus' had to play an even bigger part in the life of their people. Although as we passed the Coliseum, someone inevitably remarked that Manchester United must have played there recently. I felt sure that the 'Open City', which withstood the ravages of history, Nero, Caligula and even Mussolini, would be able to put up with the excesses of a few thousand basically well-intentioned 'scouses' from Merseyland.

Liverpool parade the European Cup after their 3-1 victory over Borussia Monchengladbach.

It must be said that the Roman Police somewhat over-reacted to the threat posed by the exuberant Liverpool fans. The thick black line of uniformed might reinforced by fierce dogs straining at the leash surrounding the pitch, wasn't a pretty sight. Herding the supporters out of the ground after the match like cattle was also totally unnecessary. But to be fair, who can foretell the correct balance between 'adequate' and 'provocative' policing of a crowd?

Late afternoon, I set out to find the offices of the Italian F.A. to collect my Press ticket. The hotel clerk tells me that it's at a walking distance, all I have to do is to turn right, then the third on the on the left, and at the traffic lights . . . Turns out to be a hopeless task, and I soon discover that Romans know their own town even less than Londoners do theirs. Finally, after passing the same unshaven newspaper vendor seven times, a lady with a rather badly trained dog, comes to my rescue and leads me into a doorway.

It is guarded by a woman dressed in black (Anna Magnani's mother?), who nods happily, "Si, si, calcio!" But upstairs I find only two commissionaires playing cards — and the notice on the wall bears the legend, 'Ladies' Football Association!

Day 2. Tuesday May 24

A cut-price trip to Naples, Capri and Sorrento. Some of the lads are on the coach, others prefer to go to the Railway Station to greet the newcomers (after all they haven't seen a fellow Liverpool fan for two whole days), or to the Holiday Inn where the team are staying, to pass on last minute messages of goodwill and some unsolicited tactical advice. Our trip is quite hilarious, with an Italian guide whose elongated "Heli-o-o-o" and mincing walk reminded us of Danny La Rue. He describes the Bay of Naples as "quite nice", and a spaghetti factory as "beautiful".

The startled look of the waiter in Capr

Leslie Vernon's European Cup diary...

s, 'scouses', naples, ky and y Robinson

Happy Liverpool fans in the Olympic Stadium in Rome.

clearly shows that he has never served a red-and-white totem pole before. Especially not one who wore a British flag on his back, and had his chest tattooed with such sage observations as "Joey Jones is the greatest". But the population of Sorrento weren't unduly concerned when they were told that "Everton are tragic", and when a typically 'well-proportioned' Italian Mama marched past us with her five children and got a chorus of "You'll never walk alone", I began to feel sorry for the Germans.

How can Moenchengladbach win a match when their opponents are backed by such an irresistible bunch of good-humoured lunatics? Of course, the forthcoming match was the main topic of conversation. They all felt sorry for Toshack for missing the game of a lifetime, and they all loved Jones, whom they regarded as one of them — a mad Kopite, fallible, over-enthusiastic, essentially reliable.

"He would die for you" I was told time and again. Who could ask for more? Skill? It does not come into it. Curiously, the eventual result didn't worry them overmuch. Hungarians, Spaniards etc. would have been concerned only about winning first, and playing well as a bonus. But there Liverpudlians, and for that matter, most English fans, have a more stoical approach. "Che serra, serra — whatever will be, will be" is their admirable philosophy. To be in the Final enough for them. As long as the 'Reds' do their best tomorrow in that massive Stadium on the bank of the Tiber, their fans will be happy . . .

Day 3. Wednesday May 25

A day to be a professional. The parting of the ways sends my mates and 20,000 others onto the terraces with their brand-new chequered tablecloth-like flags — marking 'the finishing line' of a momentous season for Liverpool Football Club. I dutifully attend the usual UEFA Press Conference.

Un-asked questions in the back of our minds dominate the proceedings, which amicably drown-on until the iced Camparis are served. Perhaps the one noteworthy notion that emerged from the Conference was UEFA's insistence that the field of the 1982 World Cup should stay at 16. They oppose the increase of numbers, because this would make the tournament too long, the qualifying competition less competitive (therefore less lucrative).

In any case, it can be taken for granted that the UEFA v FIFA behind-the-scenes battle has been won by the Europeans — for the time being anyway. At the ground Bill Shankly, like Hannibal, is 'ante portas' — he is waiting outside the gates because he hasn't got a ticket! This is the man who made Liverpool one of the greatest clubs in Europe, and in their finest hour, he had to wait for a journalist to go in and fetch a pass for him. (In a country where they have no regard for tickets?)

I do not wish to imply that this momentary indignity was Liverpool's fault. Indeed, Secretary Peter Robinson is a thoughtful, kind efficient man, and he did absolutely everything humanly possible to make the occasion entirely trouble-free.

The match is ancient history by now. Suffice to say that Liverpool were tactically brilliant, and the Germans did everything wrong. Apart from that excellent Simonson goal and the run by Stielike, which brought out a world-class save from Clemence, they were slow, hesitant, even over-anxious. When Liverpool's back-four or midfield men had the ball, they were given time to dwell on it (have you ever seen a Hughes walking?), but when Moenchengladbach were in possession, they were pressurised by the English players, who found some reserve energy despite the heat and humidity.

Goalkeeper Kneib and full-back Klinkhammer were the main culprits — you cannot win the European Cup with such third-rate footballers in your side. Kevin Keegan, who has never played better, and is sure to become the next European Footballer of the Year', handled the after match Press conference just as well as he did Bertie Vogts during the game.

Example: Question by an Italian. "Why can't you play as well as that for England?" Keegan: "It is much easier to play well for my club side with players I am used to playing with. I know exactly what I have to do. England have had too many changes recently, it is very difficult to play well in the present national side."

Another question: "What did you think of the referee?" Keegan: "Well . . ." At that point, UEFA Press Officer, Rudolph Rothenbuhler stepped in, and said that questions concerning the referee were forbidden!

Why, I wonder? After the game, I was invited to travel back to the hotel (and the party) on the team's coach. There we were with the European Cup safely locked-up in the boot, but the players were surprisingly subdued. "We have to do better next season!" said Ray Kennedy. "Yes, we've got to win the League Cup!" came Steve Heighway's rejoinder. Perhaps not bery funny, but this exchange demonstrated the realistic views of the pros. in general, and the insatiable appetite for success of the Liverpool players in particular.

Day 4. Thursday, May 26

BACK in the hotel, the fans, who were truly magnificent, are looking at the reviews of the match. They are mainly concerned about their own performance — whether they get a mention or not in the popular English dailies. "We have done as much as the team. We have spent our money, we behaved ourselves. We want some recognition!" was their perhaps understandable attitude.

Frank McGee did them proud in the 'Mirror', and the paper is passed from hand to hand, the relevant passages underlined — with a red biro, naturally. During my afternoon stroll, I see a large crowd around the famous Fontana De Trevi. Fully-clothed Liverpool fans are jumping-in — celebrating or looking for coins? Their dry (outside) friend sings "Three nutters in the fountain", while the American tourists click their cameras in bewilderment.

Then the trip home — without the two guys who went missing, and the other two who lost their passports. The plane is waiting to take-off. Suddenly the door flies open, and Tony, the biggest drinker, the most wholehearted supporter, staggers in. "Sit down, sir", lisps the pretty Japanese Air stewardess. "No, luv", says Tony, "I'd rather stand. I've got to be at work at 9 o'clock." Arrivederci, Roma . . .

Trouble for Napoli

MORE trouble for Napoli. Their ground has been closed yet again — this time for three matches — and they have had a point deducted after trouble in the closing minutes of the game with Fiorentina.

With just three minutes to go in the Fuorigrotta, with the score 1-1, the crowd erupted after Napoli were refused a penalty and Fiorentina immediately broke away to score what proved the winner!

The linesman at one end was showered with missiles, which continued to rain down even though the referee moved him across to the other side of the pitch. The protests, which went on on the pitch itself, only served to further inflame the fans, but the match was concluded with Fiorentina holding on to the points.

At the subsequent inquiry Fiorentina were awarded the match by the regulation *a tavolino* award of 2-0. Napoli had a point deducted and skipper Antonio Juliano was banned for four matches for insulting the referee. Fiorentina moved up by virtue of this win into third place in the table and thus into next season's UEFA Cup.

Napoli's European hopes were dead — they were now seventh.

And next season they will be without both their present coach and president. Bruni Pesaola stays in charge of the team just to see through the closing stages of the Cup, but with their three mini-league matches all away from their own stadium, their chances of creeping into Europe this way did not appear high.

Pesaola, coach to Napoli in the mid-sixties renaissance featuring Omar Sivori and Jose Altafini, spent five years at Bologna before switching last summer. He never settled back in south, and his place will be taken by 37-year-old Giovanni Di Marzio, a former Napoli youth coach who failed this past season in his attempts to avoid relegation with Catanzaro.

President Corrado Ferlaino intends to move out also before the next season, because he says he had been neglecting his business concerns for too long. Rather, it appears that a number of disciplinary rulings which have gone against Napoli in the past year or two have prevented him enjoying the power of his position.

Ferlaino is, nevertheless, proud of his achievements at the helm.

"I took over a club riddled by debt," he said, "with the court officials virtually at the door and about to move in to sequestrate all our property to pay the creditors. Out of this I have succeeded in building a club which can move freely in the transfer market and has a healthy bank balance."

RECORD FOR JUVENTUS

News from ITALY by Keir Radnedge

JUST A glance at the statistics will show that, close as it was when Juventus edged one point clear to take the league title ahead of Torino, they certainly earned it.

They ended with more points (51) than any other team since the first division was reduced to 16 clubs in 1967; and their 23 victories (in 30 games!) outstripped even the 20 of Ambrosiana in 1940 and Torino in 1943.

Juve's ten away wins equalled Torino's figure in 1943, and their six consecutive away wins topped the five of Genoa (1938), Ambrosiana (1940) and Milan (1968 and 1972).

Juve also started the season with a record seven victories. There are still more records too, if you start splitting the season into first and second halves and count the number of points gained separately. But it all goes to underline what many experts are now saying: Juventus are perhaps the best club team in Europe, and could well prove it next season in the Champions' Cup.

This was their 17th league title, in itself a record, which seems impregnable. Internazionale, next in line, boast only 11.

Tension

But let's not forget Torino. After all, to go through a 30-match season under such pressure and lose only one game, is a fine achievement by any standards. And in Francesco Graziani, who scored 21 goals, they had the top scorer in *Serie A*. (Juventus' top scorer, Roberto Bettega, was third equal with Beppe Savoldi on 17; Genoa's Roberto Pruzzo was second with 18).

Torino also had the best goals record, both for and against — 51-14, compared with Juve's 50-20.

The last four weeks of the season brought tension in Turin to its utmost. Never have the two neighbours been bound up in a closer race for such an important prize.

The vital weekend was just a month from the end. Juventus won 2-1 at home to Napoli on the Saturday and Torino, knowing they had to win away to Lazio, could manage only a draw. That put the champions one point behind Juve — which was how they finished as they matched each other step for step over the last three matches.

Juve only won away to Napoli thanks to a goal four minutes from the end by skipper Giuseppe Furino, but after a disappointing Torino had failed to gain both points in the Stadio Olimpico, coach Gigi Radice admitted: "That could be a very important point to lose."

The following week came the big Milan-Turin derbies, with Juventus going away to Inter, and Torino home to struggling AC Milan. Torino were hopeful that Inter could take a point from Juve, particularly since the Zebras were without Roberto Boninsegna and Francesco Morini. Instead it was Boninsegna's deputy, another former Inter forward

'Bobo Cori, who scored a vital opening g
eight minutes before half-time, while Ma
Tardelli got another midway through the s
ond half to sew it all up.

Torino kept pace with goals by the terri
twins Francesco Graziani and Paolino Pu
against a Milan who showed little interest
attack.

Juve's Fiat backer Giovanni Agn
watched the game and commented aft
wards: "Playing like that Milan will ne
score."

With two games to go Juventus brou
their match with Roma forward a day to giv
little more time before the UEFA Cup Fi
return against Athletic Bilbao in Spain. A
while Torino's players were taken on
holidaymaker's tourist tour of Foggia, whe
they were to play the next day, an 11
minute goal by Roberto Bettega was pushi
Juventus nearer the title.

**A goal 12 minutes from time brought Tori
their two points at Foggia, and afterwa
Radice admitted: "It's a play-off I'm hopi
for now, not the title."**

In Italy, if two teams finish level at the to
a play-off is held. In this case it would ha
been in Milan, since the date scheduled w
too close to the Champions' Cup Final to u
the Rome Stadio Olimpico, and Turi
Stadio Municipale couldn't be held 'neutr
territory!

So to the last games.

Juve were away to Sampdoria, who need
two points to try to stave off relegatio
Torino were at home to Genoa — and 'ea
fixture.

At half-time Torino were still hoping fo
play-off. They led 3-1 against Genoa, wh
Sampdoria and Juve were still 0-0. But at t
end of the 90 minutes while Torino had w
5-1, all the transistor radios in the Stad
Municipale told the sad tale for the cham
ions: Juventus had won 2-0, with goals fro
the unstoppable Bettega after 61 minutes a
Boninsegna after 84, just to make sure.

"That was the longest game of the season
said Juve president Giampiero Bonipe
afterwards, as he celebrated the league a
UEFA Cup double, with perhaps one mo
triumph yet to come in the Italian Cup.

Radice was generous in defeat, praisi
Juve coach Giovanni Trapattoni for the w
he had reorganized the Zebras in midfie
And then he went away to brood perhaps o
where Torino had slipped up.

Remarkable as it may seem, they took *thr*
points off Juventus in the Turin derbies!

Bearzot happy with result

ITALY weren't very impressive, but their 3-0 win in Finland made them outright favourites to qualify from their group for the World Cup Finals in Argentina next year.

Manager Enzo Bearzot still insists: "While we have three games to play I am not convinced we can qualify."

But Italy hold all the aces now, particularly thanks to their judicious understanding of the importance of facing the weakest team in the group, Luxembourg, in the very last match.

Even if the Italians have by then lost at Wembley in the return against England, they will know exactly how many goals they need to go on to Argentina through goal difference.

In Helsinki it took a flying second-half header from Roberto Bettega — the kind which killed off England in Rome last autumn — to ensure victory. Claudio Gentile had put Italy ahead with a lucky header after eight minutes, rising to a Franco Causio cross and seeing the ball escape Goran Enckelmann's fingers, hit the post, and rebound into the net off the goalkeeper's back.

But with the *Azzurri* looking tired, Finland could have scored a couple had not their nerves got the better of them.

Once Dino Zoff punched a cross straight to Aki Heiskanen, eight yards out, but he shot wide. Then, just before half-time a mix-up between Zoff and Juventus team-mate Romeo Benetti left Pertti Jantunen with an even easier chance, which he somehow sliced into the side-net.

Italy included nine of the men who beat England in Rome and it was the deadly Bettega who eased them towards safety 11 minutes after the interval, when he flung himself into the path of Giancarlo Antognoni's cross to make it 2-0. Benetti added a third nine minutes from the end and, as the teams walked off at the end, Finland's best player, defender Arto Tolsa told the Italians: "Have a nice trip to Argentina."

Of the Italian team who beat England, the missing men were Fabio Capello and Antonello Cuccureddu. Capello's exclusion even from the squad, who warmed-up with a 3-1 win over Feyenoord, was no surprise after the depressing season he's had with Milan.

But Cuccureddu's being left on the touchline led to a row between the Juventus all-rounder and Bearzot, which was hardly ideal for morale as the Azzurri prepared for this important game.

Finland. — Enckelman — Heikkinen, Vihtilä, Tolsa, Rantanen — Jantunen, Suomalainen, Toivola — Rissanen, Heiskanen, Paatelainen.

Italy. — Zoff — Facchetti — Tardelli, Mozzini, Gentile — Benetti, Zaccarelli, Antognoni — Causio (C. Sala 72), Graziani, Bettega.

Referee. — R. Helies (France). Attendance. — 17,531.

Arto Tolsa of Finland (white shirt) and Franco Causio appear to be going through a dance routine rather than World Cup action but Italy were serious enough winning 3-0.

MILAN STAY UP

MILAN and Bologna stay up — Sampdoria, Catanzaro and Cesna go down. That's the outcome of the relegation struggle.

In the end the giants, Milan and Bologna, finished three points clear of Sampdoria, the last of the strugglers to go under, but it was only in the last couple of weeks that the situation was resolved.

After losing 2-0 to Torino, Milan were held 0-0 away to Verona, and that provoked more internal conflict as even president Vittorio Duina openly blamed this season's catastrophes on the Gianni Rivera takeover.

At the end of the season Rivera would take steps to finally buy out Duina, his original choice as interim president before he was ready to retire, but before that came vital games.

The most important was against Catanzaro, in the penultimate game. Catanzaro were already booked for the drop, but coach Giovanni Di Marzio made his men's attitude clear when he said: "If we've got to go down, we'll do our level best to take Milan with us."

In the event, Milan squeaked home 3-2, but only after a fiery game which saw coach Nereo Rocco 'sent off' by the referee at half-time and later suspended from his place on the touchline for several weeks.

It was no place for brotherly love, either: Catanzaro included defender Luigi Maldera, while Milan had Aldo, nearly eight years his junior.

Those points meant that Milan, on 25 points, had to win their last game away to tailenders Cesena to be certain of survival — though, as it turned out, Juve's victory over Sampdoria made this insurance unnecessary.

Milan won 2-0, with both goals coming from Rivera himself. And Rivera, after the game, started hedging again on his retirement intentions.

"Perhaps I may go on for another season," he said, pleased with his goals. "I've now decided to put off a final decision until after the Italian Cup. Then I'll sort it out with the other directors, and see what they think."

NEWS FROM FRANCE
by Andre Duclos

NANTES FOLLOW SAINT ETIENNE

EIRE like ourselves, found it hard to play in Sofia, but they lost where we drew — and should have won — and if France beat Bulgaria in the last match of the group on November 16, we shall be through; the first French team to compete in the World Cup Finals since the ill starred side of 1966. It would be a tremendous tribute to that quiet, decent man, Hidalgo, who may well have learned when he was lieutenant to Stefan Kovacs, now sosuccessfully in charge of the Rumanian national team — which also seems very likely to qualify. An interesting irony indeed, were they to finish in the same group, in Argentina.

Nantes, meanwhile, take up the running from Saint Etienne as the new French Champions, playing in the European Cup. Let us hope they wil do as wonderfully well as Saint Etienne did, during these last three years. There are certain interesting comparisons. Nantes, who of course have been in the competition before — though years ago — like Saint Etienne build on a well articulated youth policy, and they also are a team dedicated to attack. They do not have veteran foreign defenders of the power and resilience of Piazza, Argentinian centre-back of Saint Etienne, or Yvan Curkovic who, whatever happened that disastrous evening at Liverpool, remains a fine and formidable keeper. But they have a very lively midfield, and there is reason to believe that they are even better than Saint Etienne, up the front.

Still, they do have an Argentinian of merit and poise in their defence, one of whom I have often written before, and that is the cool little Argentinian international sweeper Hugo Bargas, who of course played for his country in the 1974 World Cup in Stuttgart.

Henri Michel, that cool, clever half-back, many times a French international, has huge experience and has had a splendid season, exerting a benign, avuncular influence over his lively young team. With him in midfield has played an interesting figure in yet another Argentinian — what would we do without them? — though one naturalised French now; Oscar Muller.

Modern player

This lively, skilful player, who allies the grace and ball skills of an Argentinian of the classical school to the drive, stamina and determination of a modern European player, is the son of Ramon, a typical South American juggler who delighted French fans for many years. Born at Rosario in Argentina, the now 20-year-old Oscar followed him around the country for many years, playing as a boy with various clubs, until he finally settled with Nantes. He has been a substitute already for the Under 21 team, and a full international cap may not lie too far in the future.

The third member of the midfield trio, Sahnoun, has been compared for his vigorously effective play with the young Reims half-back, Dominique Bathenay, scorer in each of the two ties against Liverpool, with what were two equally remarkable shots.

Up front, make a note of the names of Baronchelli, of whom I have spoken before in these columns, Pécout and Amisse. They may be just a season or so off making a true impact on the highest level of European football, but make that mark they surely will, in time; perhaps in Argentina, with the French international side.

This attack, meanwhile, has just sparkled. It is modern in the best sense of the word, forever switching, interchanging, altering the point of attack, composed of three young lions who play eagerly for each other. Eric Pécout has been called "The Great Centre-Forward of Tomorrow". Tomorrow, on the basis of such performances as he gave against Nice, thrashed 6-1, cannot be very far away. Pécout can score dazzling individual goals, and is certainly one of his country's great hopes.

Dominique Bathenay himself has paid warm tribute to the young Nantes team. "Nantes 77 is, bar a few details, the Saint Etienne team of a few years ago," he says. "One thing is certain. Nantes has really deserved its Championship, thanks above all to its consistency. The Nantais have earned more points away from home than anybody else, and it goes without saying that this is what wins a title. They have also known how to reconcile their principles of play with the efficiency which brings victory."

In this respect, thinks Bathenay, Nantes very much resemble Saint Etienne; as was. But there is a second respect, too; he points out that Nantes are the same blend of a few veterans and a number of ambitious young men. "It's the fruit of a youth policy comparable to that of Saint Etienne."

Meanwhile, don't forget the manager, Jean Vincent, who took over after the long regime of José Arribas to give the team, perhaps, just that little bit more which it needed. Vincent in his day was of course a splendid players, outside left for the Reims team which was still Saint Etienne far and away the best that France had produced since the war, and left winger for the famous French team which took third place in the World Cup in Sweden in 1958.

Eight years later, he was coaching in the Far East, and was, with Sir Stanley Rous, the first to sound warning of the splendid North Koreans of the '66 World Cup. Vincent saw them play and thrash Australia in those strange play-offs in Laos, and said that for him, they were a better team than his own French side of 1958. I don't think anybody took him very seriously; until the North Koreans beat Italy and rattled in three goals in twenty minutes in that astounding semi-final against the Portuguese, at Everton.

Bathenay, generous to a fault, says he believes Nantes could "have a European Cup career comparable to Saint Etienne's", but adds that he hopes that, like his own club, they have success in the early rounds.

St. Etienne won the French Cup Final, beating Reims in the last minutes of the game, 2-1. Pictured St. Etienne goalkeeper Ivan Curcovic saves from Dominque Bathenay (left), Jacques Santini (centre, hidden) and Santiago Santamaria from Reims.

ERIC BATTY reports from Vienna

How good are Turks?

AFTER Turkey's 1-1 draw away to East Germany in Dresden, a good result in Vienna would have made them clear favourites to win their group and a ticket to Argentina. Not having seen them for a while, and planning to see Borussia Monchengladbach on the way home three days later, I thought, "why not?"

WORLD SOCCER is apparently very well known in Turkey and I was well recieved by their manager Metin Turel (who speaks French) and coach Candan Tarhan who speaks excellent English with a strong Yorkshire accent which was the result of six months living in Leeds. The outcome was another session talking football, lasting into the early hours.

Finding out just how good the Turks were was just one question I wanted answered. Another was how the Austrians are getting on because my memories of them go back to the Ernst Ocwirk-Gerhard Hanappi superteam of 1950-51, through the lean years around 1958, until I saw the 1961 3-1 win over England at the Prater Stadion. That was Austria's last good period and of course the last time I saw them live was in 1973 when they took a terrible mauling from England at Wembley.

Since then, players like Hans Krankl and Herbert Prohaska have been kinked with West German clubs and from afar it looked as if they might have improved as individuals, even if their team still wasn't doing anything special.

Before the main event, Austria and Turkey staged their European Under 21 game and that turned out to be a more entertaining game than the World Cup tie. This was largely due to the Turkish attack which though the inside right, inside left and left winger all spent a lot of time in midfield all had good qualities and when the chances came, they went forward with skill and purpose.

Pick of them all was probably inside left Serdar who had several very good shots, but overall the Turks displayed a lot more individual skill than the stolid and ponderous Austrians.

Turkey's Under 21 team started cautiously but clearly grew in confidence as it became clear that the Austrians were not good. By the interval, I made Turkey the better side, even though the scoresheet was blank.

Then came a test of character when Turkey gave away a joke goal. A free kick was headed into the goalmouth which was promptly and easily thumped away by Turkey's substitute right back but the ball hit the back of the Austrian centre forward (who turned his back on it) . . . and dropped right at the feet of un-marked Gernot Jurtin who scored a gift goal from close in.

Within three minutes the Turks were level through Serdar, and soon afterwards Hurat made it 2-1 for Turkey. Then for the last twenty minutes it was clear that Turkey were the better side as they stroked the ball about and produced their party tricks on the ball.

At this stage Turkey made one counter attack in which they outnumbered the Austrian defence by 7 men to 2 . . . but that came to nothing because the player on the ball failed to pass, trying to go on his own and being stopped.

At this stage the ground looked only half full and most of them appeared to be Turks — immigrant workers based in Austria, and many more who travelled by car and bus from West Germany. They were waving flags and cheering an obvious Turkish 2-1 success when the referee whose name I will not mention pulled one of the most rotten tricks I've ever seen.

Playing in injury time, Austria got a free kick and floated a long ball that just reached the Turkish penalty area. Two men jumped for it, and while I was well placed to see the incident and saw nothing . . . the referee pointed to the penalty spot and before blowing for time the Austrians made it 2-2.

The Turks had been robbed and they knew it but the OFB had enough police in riot gear to cope with even Manchester United fans and they quickly surrounded the referee and escorted him off.

Should UEFA officials read this by some chance, do yourselves a favour and cross this official off your list. If you don't, then I am sure he'll land you in serious trouble one day.

Russian referee Viktor Jarkov controlled the big game and was quite impeccable. My only criticism was that he allowed the goalkeepers to take more than four steps with the ball, but as both 'keeper's were at it, and they were both being harassed he let it go — and overall it was probably the best answer.

Experience

Hans Krankl was quite good upstairs, though I wondered how he would get on trying to win high balls at Anfield or Old Trafford and twice he went looking for penalties that Jarkov, quite rightly didn't even blink at.

Senol in the Turkish goal began very nervously, punching everything that came across the box in the air but after the twenty minute mark seemed to settle down, began catching and holding the crosses and looked good. Clearly with more experience of big games he could become quite useful, for once over the early period he did very well.

Not long into the game, referee Jarkov had a 1966 World Cup Final situation to face. The way saw it the ball hit the angle of bar and post at Turkey's end, bounced down and out, but it happened so fast that it could conceivably have been the net or the stanchion. On all these diabolical continental multi purpose stadiums (like Wembley), you are too far from the action to be positive about many things.

In 1966, Dienst didn't know, and at the Prater it was clear that Jarkov didn't know. But applying the law of the game . . . he waved play on because he wasn't sure that the whole of the ball had crossed the line. Quite right.

Jarkov also impressed me with his no nonsense approach to the ten yard rule at free kicks. His answer was the yellow card for the first offender, and after that there was no bother from either side. When he blew they got back quick and stayed there.

The pick of the Austrian side was the centre back marker Bruno Pezzey who showed his skill and vision with a string of well laid first time clearances and midfield dynamo Josef Hickersberger on loan from West Germany's Fortuna Dusseldorf who never stopped running and occasionally went forward well.

Prohaska was cheered every time he got the ball, but though he lays off good passes, and is clearly skilful, I think he's over-rated. Prohaska makes himself available for passes, positioning intelligently and is easy to find. But it wasn't until the 68th minute that he even ventured into his first tackle of the game when a Turk had the ball.

Reputation

Turkey probably deserved the draw they were obviously looking for because the Austrians never really looked like scoring. Despite Krankl's reputation the Austrians never created a clear cut scoring chance and their goal that won the game was a scrambled affair scored from around three yards by left winger Walter Schachner of Alpine Donawitz. Only 20, Schachner did nothing else but relieved the pressure on Austrian coach Helmut Senekowitsch.

Many of the Turkish players showed a high degree of skill and the way they scuttled about, chasing and harrying it was clear they were well motivated. But even though they were hoping for a 0-0 draw, I felt they could have done more to put pressure on the Austrian defence on the counter attack but most of the time Cemil and Ali Kemal were left up front to fight alone with right winger Mehmet spending most of his time in midfield.

Cemil is a clever ball player who had the beating of his immediate opponent on the left wing almost every time he got the ball. On several occasions, Cemil jinked past the two or three men but he rarely got enough support from behind when going forward.

Ali Kemal played slightly right of centre and almost the opposite of Cemil which means they make a good pair, though it was very rare that they were close enough together to help one another on the ball.

Armed with hindsight, I would have had at least one Turkish midfield player with an attacking bent, instructed to 'join' Cemil and Ali Kemal whenever they got possession and tried to push more men forward in counter attacks. As it was, the Turks fought a brave rearguard action and relied almost totally on Cemil and Ali Kemal on their own to do things at the far end — and the gamble didn't come off.

Player Portrait

by Keir Radnedge

FRANCIS ENGLAND

TWO AND a half years ago, when newly-appointed Don Revie named his first England squad, he included a 21-year-old forward from first division Birmingham named Trevor Francis.

No-one argued. He was a logical choice, the talented high scorer destined apparently to bring a touch of magic and class to a pedestrian national team.

But a few days before Revie's team were to play Czechoslovakia in the European Championship, Francis was injured in a league game. And now that he has at last made the grade so much later, many fans are asking whether at 23 Francis is already past his peak.

Revie had his reasons for ignoring Francis for so long. It was all part of a psychological plan to tease Francis to overcome five months on the sidelines with torn knee ligaments, then back to the form which, when he exploded into soccer at 16, had the crowds chanting: "Superboy, superboy."

Francis hates that nickname now. But what else could people call him? At 16, as an £8-a-week apprentice, he was playing in the second division for Birmingham and scoring 15 goals in his first 21 games — including four in one match!

Back then, in the spring of 1971, no achievement seemed beyond the modest son of an old Plymouth player who, a few months before, was sitting behind a school desk.

All along he had been carefully groomed for stardom. Birmingham's manager was Freddie Goodwin and Francis's debut was so carefully arranged that the boy knew nothing about it until barely an hour before the start of a league game in Cardiff.

Francis thought he had been taken along just to help with the kit! Instead he was substitute and not only that, but played in the later stages. A few games more and he was sent back to the second, third and youth teams to absorb his new-found experience before, a few months later, Goodwin recalled him to spectacular effect.

In six games Francis hit 12 goals and had everyone comparing him with the greatest of English goalscorers — Tommy Lawton, Dixie Dean and Jimmy Greaves. It was a far cry from a few weeks before, when Francis spent his week cleaning the first teamers' boots, sweeping the terraces, scrubbing the baths and just dreaming of all the adulation.

Suddenly he was being tipped to join Britain's youngest-ever international roll, alongside George Best, who first played for his country at 17, John Charles (18) and Duncan Edwards (18½).

Thousands of new-found fans started turning up at St Andrew's in Birmingham to see the new wonder and join in the chants of that nickname he despises. At the end of the season Birmingham had finished 10th and Francis had played in 21 games. Already he had his reward. On his 17th birthday on April 19, 1971 he signed a four-year contract worth virtually £100 a week — a pay rise of £92 a week!

In the summer he helped England win the UEFA Youth Cup and back at his digs in Birmingham was inundated with requests to present trophies and cups at youth clubs and local sports organisations. Arsenal, Everton and Manchester City all asked Goodwin the selling price.

Goodwin told them: "I'd resign rather than let Francis go."

His reasoning was borne out the following season, with Francis scoring 14 goals in 44 games as Birmingham reached the Cup semi-finals and won promotion. Had he been up for offer Birmingham could have asked £300,000 and no-one would have quibbled. Instead the club bound their star to them ever more firmly with a new four-year contract and waited expectably for him to take the first division by storm.

Instead the next four seasons were gloomy, frightening ones as the club finished 10th, 19th, 17th and 19th and battled continually against a swift return to the second class.

Francis's golden touch deserted him a little. Wherever he played his class shone out like a beacon, but the responsibility of being the club's only match-winner was too much to take so early in his career. And opponents didn't make it easy, of course.

Francis complained: "Once a player kicked me to the ground. Then, as I lay in obvious pain, he whacked me again in the back."

Delayed

Illness and injury had delayed his first division debut already and when he did appear he found opponents needling him with accusations of play-acting when he was bustled to the ground, or had his ankles tapped.

Indeed, his first booking, against Sheffield United in February 1973 by Norman Burtenshaw, was for the remarkable fault of "feigning injury." Sheffield United would always be bogey opponents after that.

In the autumn of 1974, with three under-23 appearances — the first in his home town of Plymouth — to his name, Revie called him for the first time into the senior England squad for the European championship tie with the Czechoslovaks.

Most people thought this long overdue recognition, but in fact Francis was still a long way from seeing his international career take off.

The Saturday before the Czechoslovakia game, the day before he was due to report for duty to Revie, Birmingham went to Bramall Lane to play Sheffield United. Francis, buoyed

Scottish fans on the rampage at Wembley.

Trevor Francis (left) in action for England against Scotland for whom Asa Hartford is no 10.

S HAS QUALITY O REQUIRE

by a hat-trick a few weeks before against Luton, was in fine form — the sort which few contemporary English players could live with. Then, after 35 minutes, he collided with the Sheffield goalkeeper. He needed treatment, but played on gamely for eight minutes until, giving a pass, he collapsed in agony — the ligaments behind his right knee in tatters.

His England dreams were over. Indeed, it would be five months before he was ready to play again. In the meantime Birmingham offset their relegation anxiety with the excitement of another run to the Cup semi-finals, where they lost in extra time in a replay to Fulham.

Francis returned in time for the last games of the season. Revie, it was no secret, wanted him back in the squad for the home internationals for the big match experience, if not to take a central part.

Misfortune dogged him again. Early in 1975-76 Goodwin was sacked. Francis, disillusioned with the Birmingham set-up and fearing the club's continued failures would stunt his own progress, asked for a transfer. His plea was refused and his 17 goals in 35 games kept Birmingham up and new manager Willie Bell in a job.

Last summer Francis said it openly: Strengthen the team with new signings or I'll move on. Bell, now far more sure of his ground, fined him £100 for the outburst, but the message wasn't lost. New forwards in Gary Jones and John Connolly arrived from Everton and Francis, the weight up front now shared a little more equably, started to enjoy his football again. Now 22, his physique was developing to match his skills. No longer could he be pushed off the ball or intimidated.

To all his other qualities Francis had added power — and that was what Revie had been waiting to see. Francis scored a magnificent hat-trick in a 3-3 draw with Arsenal (Malcolm Macdonald scored three for the Gunners) and Revie named him this past spring in the squad to face Holland.

The build-up was really too much. England were looking to Francis to provide the genius of a Johan Cruyff — but Cruyff was on the other side, and in imperious form as the Dutch won 2-0 at Wembley. In comparison Francis was a little boy lost. But then, no-one in the England team played any better, so he was worth another chance in the home World Cup-tie against Luxembourg.

Again England struggled. Certainly the final score was 5-0 — and Francis hit two of them — but it was only in the latter stages as the Luxembourg amateurs tired that Revie's men found the way through.

Francis hadn't lived up to the ballyhoo, and the British championship started without him. England won away to Northern Ireland, then were beaten at home by Wales and Francis was recalled for the all-important prestige climax against Scotland at Wembley.

Now Francis is a player most of whose creative work is achieved through the inside left position. But against the Scots it seemed Revie was expecting him to fulfil the role of a Stanley Matthews — stuck out on the right touchline. And that totally strange task was no help in a forward line which included Mike Channon, since it meant Channon was unable to try those usual breaks out to the right to find some space.

Only in the dying minutes did Francis move into his usual position, and then it was that in bursting through into the penalty box he was tripped by Gordon McQueen.

Channon converted the spot kick, but it was too late. Scotland hung on easily to win 2-1 and give their fans an excuse to swarm over the pitch, smashing the goal posts and digging up the turf.

What was missing? Was it that Francis suffered a lack of confidence? Was Revie using him wrongly?

Perhaps he was still overawed by the pressures of pulling on an England shirt. It can't have helped that he was one of the culprits in squandering those first-half chances in Maracana which could have brought England a shock victory over Brazil. But how can he cross the barrier which has so far prevented his playing with that freedom and grace he does possess?

My feeling is that he has been too long at Birmingham, too long in a struggling and mediocre team. There are still plenty of clubs interested in trying to sign him. Liverpool cast a thoughtful glance his way when they knew Kevin Keegan would be going: Bayern Munich put him on the short list of players they considered splashing the Beckenbauer cash on.

But Birmingham can't afford to let him go. They would have been long since back in the second division without him and his goals. And their falling crowds, disillusioned with the lack of any success to match the rivals across the city, Aston Villa, would dwindle still further if there were no Francis to come to admire, to provide a ray of hope for the future.

It's an impasse which must be broken down, not just for Francis's and Birmingham's sake, but for England's too.

New Aussie le instant succes

Andre Dettre from Sydney

MALCOLM MACDONALD in South Melbourne, Charlie George in Sydney St. George, Wee Willie Henderson in Brisbane Lions . . . what's this? Is Britain really falling apart at its Saxon seams? Not quite, at least not due to Aussie raiders. These three, together with some lesser lights, spent part of their summer break Down Under, picking up a fistful of inflated Aussie dollars during a busman's holiday. What's more, they helped establish the country's brand new, national Philips League, Australia's first football competiton embracing most of this vast continent.

Launched in April amidst some repressed fears, camouflaged in PR-generated euphoria, the Philips Soccer League — PSL, if you're in the know — is doing a great deal better than most had expected. The overall standards have risen, new stars have emerged and, in some cities anyway, the crowd acceptance has been immediate and formidable. The PSL's boom city is undoubtedly Adelaide where attendances of 8,000 and more are common — a brilliant success by Australian standards and something even many Scottish or Austrian clubs could envy. However, the largest crowd so far has seen the South Melbourne v St. George match, featuring Malcolm Macdonald and Charlie George and going 3-2 St. George's way: more than 15,000 packed into Olympic Park.

The League's main sponsor is Philips Industries, the Dutch-based electronic giants whose outlay in the first three years could exceed £500,000. They pick up the tab for all the expensive and extensive air travelling of the 14 teams and co-sponsor the weekly PSL TV show, 'Top Soccer', shown in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.

This is the rundown on the 14 clubs involved:

ADELAIDE CITY: Previously Juventus Adelaide, formed and run largely by Italian migrants, a clever, ball-playing team with a chance of winning the title. Coached by former Polish star Edmund Kreft, Adelaide City's 'guest star' is Scotland's scoring ace Dixie Deans. Former or present Australian internationals include goalie Roger Romanowicz, midfielder John Perin, and strikers Gary Marocchi and John Nyskohus — all three children of migrant settlers.

BRISBANE CITY: Used to be called Brisbane Azzurri under which name they shared the Queensland limelight for many years with Hellenic. Scot Ian Kesson is in charge of this mainly Italian-supported club whose outstanding star is former Aberdeen captain Jim Herniston, the team's brilliant free-back.

BRISBANE LIONS: Built on the foundations of the former Hollandia club, run mainly by Dutch migrants, Lions at the time of writing are the league tailenders despite the efforts of coach Les Scheinflug, former Australian star. They have three New Zealand internationals in their ranks in goalie Phil Dendo, full back Ian Park and midfielder Roy Drinkwater, while the prime mover of the attack is former Watford-man Geoff Morris. With the arrival of Willie Henderson, the ex-Scotland ace, Lions' fortunes may improve.

CANBERRA CITY: A brand new club formed last year to enter the PSL and, despite gloomy forecasts, holding its own well. Managed and coached by former Australian captain John Warren, Canberra City is operating on a shoestring yet has managed to gather under its banner most of the national capital's soccer lovers regardless of ethnic backgfound. The Scottish brothers, John and Brian Stoddart provide the polish while a number of local youngsters generate the fire that motivates "CC".

EASTERN SUBURBS: A renamed version of Hakoah, one of Sydney's oldest and most successful clubs, catering for the city's Jewish community, having so far failed to attract others, despite their camouflaged name. Coach is ex-Israeli commando Gerry Chaldi and the bulk of the players are from Britain the most notable being former Northern Ireland international Bertie Lutton, John Stevenson, ex-Stoke man Terry Smith, Alec Robertson and Alan Kershaw as well as Australian internationals Todd Clarke and Murray Barnes. One of the co-favourites for the title.

FITZROY UNITED: Melbourne-based club which used to be called Alexander before the edict of dubious value, 'let's wipe foreign names' came into play. Basically Greek-supported, it has a mixture of players from Britain, Greece, Yugoslavia and Australia. Possibly the best-known names are veteran defender Pat Bannon and Yugoslav-born former Socceroo winger Branko Buljevic. Could end up as the most successful of the four Melbourne teams though none of them look like championship material.

FOOTSCRAY: Until last year called J.U.S.T. and strongly Yugoslav-oriented, Footscray play a highly attractive, intelligent soccer — without much success, largely because of soft finishing and the traditional Yugoslav soccer disease of sacrificing results for sheer beauty. Frank Micic, now 36, one of the great names of Australian soccer, is still the midfield brain but the two brilliant if precocious talents are Zoran Ilioski and Mendo Ristovski, children of Yugoslav migrant parents; Ristovski is now in the national squad.

MARCONI: A well-heeled and organised club in Sydney's outlying wester suburbs, Marcon is managed and coached by the last national team boss, Rale Rasic, who took Australia to the 1974 World Cup finals. Internationals abound: goalie Alan Maher, midfielders Gary Byrne and Jim Rooney, strikers Ernie Campbell and Peter Sharne. Their guest player this season is Bologna star Roberto Vieri, an elegant player and great crowd-pleaser. Possibly the best equipped team to win the initial Philips title.

MOOROOLBARK: A small club from a working class suburb of Melbourne, they lack a team, support or appeal; indeed, few could explain how they made the League in the first place. Built strongly on recycled British exports of doubtful quality, they seem to be the successful PSL's only major failure. Joe Tront, Alan Pongho, Dave Rigby and Max Irvin hold this shaky team together.

ST. GEORGE: Formerly St. George-Budapest, until they agreed to drop the suffix to appeal to the Australian public — but still strongly relying on the support of Hungarian migrants in Sydney. Australian internationals George Harris, Harry Williams (the League's only full blooded Aboriginal) and Mark Jankovics, ex-Watford stopper Paul Coton, former Scottish midfielder Fred Aitken and Argentinian Rudolfo Gnavi form the backbone. They had Charlie George for seven matches as guest but still failed to reproduce their brilliant 1976 best, under the coaching of Manfred Schaefer.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Their fans — and the local Press — still refer to them as Hellas and their support is almost exclusively Greek in Melbourne which is claimed to be the third largest Greek city in the world after Athens and Saloniki. Malcolm Macdonald's guest appearances were a huge success — but even Superstar could not make a mediocre team into a brilliant one. Ex-Socceroo goalie Jack Reilly (a Scot), South African Billy Rogers and Australian World Cup striker Peter Ollerton form the nucleus of a team of Greek and British players.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Used to be called Pan Hellenic until 'anglicised' to the equally Greek-sounding Olympic. Re-built almost entirely this season from British imports, Olympic's main capture has been guest star Bill Pirie from Dundee and former Manchester United reserve Ray Botham. In young Australian midfielder Joe Senkalski they have a certain future international while in recently arrived

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Malcolm Macdonald

Scots, George Gibson and David MacIntosh, they have acquired two steady and experienced defenders. Potentially the best supported of all Sydney teams, Olympic could finish fairly high on the ladder.

WEST ADELAIDE: Yet another Greek-based team which was known as Adelaide Hellas. Until his sacking in June, former Fulham player Mike Johnson was the coach-manager keeping the team well up with the leaders, then got dismissed because of a committee man's displeasure. The brightest star on the club's horizon is 20-year-old striker John Kosmina, of Polish father and Australian mother, signed earlier this year from another Adelaide club. In fullback Barry Reynolds, midfielders Dave Jones and Gordon McCulloch and teteran Ted De Lyster, they have enough talent to stay among the challengers.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Supported by a thriving social club, Wests are unable to command sizeable crowds at their matches despite a fine team. Often referred to as the refuge of expatriate British players, Wests, coached by Mike Laing, have several Australian internationals: Col Curran, Peter Wilson and Dave Harding from the 1974 World Cup team as well as Peter Stone, a more recent addition. In former English league strikers Graham Norris and Tottenham Hotspur's loaned Ian Moores, they have sufficient firepower to stay the pace until the end.

World Soccer Diary

THE World Cup Finals in 1978 will commence in Buenos Aires on June 1. The tournament continues until the 24th and 25th of the month when the matches for third/fourth places and the Final itself will be decided. Both games are to be held at the River Plate stadium in the Argentine capital.

RECORD crowd for a soccer game in the United States of America was recorded when New York Cosmos entertained Tampa Bay Rowdies in the Meadowlands Stadium, New Jersey and some 62,394 spectators attended. Cosmos won the match 3-1 with their former Brazilian international Pele scoring a hat-trick. The previous highest attendance in the States was 58,128.

THE success of Klaus Fischer as West Germany's centre-forward on their tour of South America is now being looked upon as a relief since the position has not been adequately filled since Gerd Muller's retirement three years ago. Twenty-seven year old Fischer who plays for Schalke 04 was involved with several other club members in the bribery scandals of a few years ago but after suspension is back in favour. Previously Fischer had been capped at Under-23 level. In the Bundesliga he has a career total of 128 goals.

MONACO who won promotion back to the French First Division provided the Second Division with its leading scorer, Delio Onnis the 29 goal striker who was born in Rome but brought up in Argentina. Onnis played his senior football originally in Argentina with Gimnasia y Esgrima and came to France at first to play for Reims. Not the best supported club in Europe, Monaco clinched the title in their last home game before only 842 fans! Twenty-nine year old Onnis can look forward to slightly bigger gates in the First Division — but not too much more.

WINNING the European Cup Winners Cup was a useful exercise for Hamburg and at least one of their players Georg Volkert. Capped by his country some eight years ago, he had been out of favour with the selectors especially when playing in Switzerland for a time. Recalled for Germany's South American tour, thirty-one year old Volkert may be enjoying an Indian summer of a career but with the arrival of Kevin Keegan at £500,000 somebody will have to lose his place in the Hamburg side.

THE World Cup qualifying competition has already seen the dismissal of three coaches — those of Switzerland, Brazil and Uruguay. Before the competition proper begins next year there are likely to be many others joining them.

IN the 1977 version of the Cup of the Alps between France and Switzerland the following eight teams have been nominated: Servette, Xamax Neuchatel, Basle and Lausanne from Switzerland, Nantes or Bordeaux, Bastia, Nancy and Lyon from France.

IN the Balkan Cup Final, Dynamo Zagreb clinched the title for Yugoslavia by defeating Sportul Bucharest 3-1 in the second leg. Sportul had won the first leg in Rumania by 3-2 which gave Dynamo the cup on aggregate.

SLASK Wroclaw achieved their first major honour in Poland recently by clinching the championship. They were formed in 1947 and play at the Olimpia Stadion in Wroclaw where there is accommodation for 60,000.

URUGUAY'S footballing fortunes may be at rock bottom but their youth team recently won the South American Youth Championship for the fifth time and enabled them to win a place in the World Youth Cup currently being played in Tunisia.

LATEST Player in the world to reach the century mark in international appearances is Bjorn Nordqvist the Swedish centre-back who achieved his 99th cap against Switzerland in a World Cup qualifying game and was expected to record the 100 against Denmark. Nordqvist who is 34 is also the most capped of Swedish internationals and the second Scandinavian to achieve three figure appearances. Thorbjorn Svennsen of Norway was the first thus honoured.

ROBERTO Rivelino also achieved his century for Brazil against West Germany recently and celebrated with the equaliser four minutes from the end. Rivelino is the fourth Brazilian to win 100 caps. The others were Pele, Gylmar and Djalma Santos.

BRAZIL will play in Europe before next year's World Cup. Already pencilled in are matches against France on April 1 in Paris; against West Germany in Hamburg on April 5 and Atletico Madrid in Spain on April 7. England will also be met at Wembley on April 19.

MACCABI Tel Aviv achieved a League and Cup double in Israel this season.

THE Russian season is being changed again. Instead of spring to autumn League and Cup tournaments it will run from January in the free from snow and ice south where a cup competition will be staged. In February the preliminary rounds of the Soviet Cup will be launched and on the first Sunday in April the League programme will get under way. This year there were no matches before mid-April.

Lights, action, cameras —enter Franz to face the Press

From PAUL GARDNER in New York

THE Press Conference was the usual sort of thing, the scene are getting rather place about here, as superstars sign for t Cosmos.

They had served all sorts of chic food in very small portion and drinks consisting of 90 per cent ice cubes, and now we we awaiting the arrival of Franz Beckenbauer and various oth VIPs. When we went through the same thing with Pele two yea back, there was a punch-up between the photographers. But t Cosmos have learned a thing or two since then, and this is a mu bigger room.

Enter Beckenbauer. Lights, action, cameras. Lots shouting, a good deal of it in German, lots of posing. Th contract is signed, the little speeches are made (Beckenbauer's splendid English) and we are heading back to the exotic food and watered drinks department.

We New York journalists are noted for our cynicism, so it w not at all out of character when one particularly hard-bitte specimen lurched up to me and said: "Well, this doesn't mean goddam thing. Not a goddam thing. It's all over now. In tw weeks he'll be completely forgotten. He ain't no Pele, yo know."

The man had a point. Beckenbauer does not have the readil recognisable and the easily marketable glamour of Pele. He doe not mean nearly so much to the Cosmos in the publicity sense a Pele did. This was very noticeable a few days later when th Cosmos players trooped off their plane at Tampa airport. A group of fans was there to welcome them. As Beckenbauer passed through them, there was a little clapping, a lot of turned heads, some whispering. No-one was sure which player wa Beckenbauer.

That was never the case with Pele, not even when he first arrived. The Tampa fans cheered as soon as he appeared and rushed forward for autographs. A lot of this had to do with Pele being one of only two black players on the Cosmos — though the other one, the fine young South African Jomo Sono, is constantly being mistaken for Pele, and asked for his autograph.

Superstar

The fact that Beckenbauer is likely to be less visible than Pele, however, should not be construed as meaning that he will not be as useful as Pele has been. He may well be more useful. It is a matter of different uses at different times.

When Pele arrived in 1975, the North American Soccer league and the Cosmos needed the same things: a superstar to attract national interest to the sport of soccer, hence to increase the viability (to say nothing of the credibility) of its clubs. They needed an ambassador, a missionary, and Pele has been all of that — a superb performer on the field and off, whether at the White House or on television talk shows or simply appearing in commercials.

Times have changed. Pele has done his job. Soccer is now a much more widely recognised sport in the USA than it was when he arrived — thanks largely to his presence. Now, the Cosmos have no need to sell the sport of soccer. Nor have they the need to publicise their name. The Cosmos are known all over the world — again, largely thanks to Pele.

What the Cosmos now need is a winning team, a team that will attract attention not only because of a few superstars, but because it plays top class soccer.

This is where Beckenbauer will be of much more help than Pele has ever been. When the Cosmos start winning, the publicity will come — Americans have an almost psychopathic interest in people and teams that win. And that interest will ultimately mean more for the Cosmos and for the sport of soccer than the interest created by Pele — which was admittedly a rather fragile thing, much of it based on considerations that had little to do with soccer. But it was right for its time.

Of course, it cannot be said that Beckenbauer's first two games for the Cosmos were exactly what the doctor ordered: a 2-4 loss to Tampa, then a 2-3 loss to Lazio of Italy. But through both those games, Beckenbauer strolled and glided and accelerated and did all sorts of classy things that said very clearly that it was not going to take him long to settle in and take over this team.

Make no mistake — the Cosmos have a lot of talent. What they have lacked is a team leader, someone to impose order whether by example or by coaxing or by shouting and swearing. I think

Franz Beckenbauer (extreme right) in his penultimate game for Bayern Munich against Eintracht Frankfurt.

Beckenbauer will do this. The fact that his third game, against the current NASL champions Toronto, ended in a 6-0 win for the Cosmos surely means something.

There are things that he has to get used to. The artificial turf, or even more, the constant switching from grass in one stadium to Astroturf in another, back to grass and so on. He has to cope with the NASL's 35-yard offside line, with the realisation that (if he is playing libero) he cannot move to the halfway line without leaving opponents behind him who are onside.

And of course, the difficulty of playing his highly personal version of libero with team-mates who are not used to it. As he remarked in a locker room interview, "Yes, mit the Cosmos it is more difficult." Though that particular problem may well be solved by playing him at midfield.

He has not been helped by some eccentric team selection by his new coach Gordon Bradley — the Tampa game in particular presented a chaotic defence, with players attempting to switch positions, even bumping into each other on more than one occasion. But the Brazilian full back Rildo, who the Cosmos were ready to ignore, has now been signed (though only because the Cosmos captain Keith Eddy is out indefinitely with a groin injury, and their American full back Bobby Smith was suspended for indiscipline). No matter — Rildo started his first league game against Toronto and played a splendid game. Another Brazilian, Nelsi Morais, is playing at right back (though he is a midfielder), and is doing well.

Bradley was widely criticised after the Tampa game (by, among others, Pele) and before the start of the Toronto game two banners could be seen in the stands. One read "Bradley Go Home", the other "Bye Bye Bradley, Hello Eddie Firmani" — the latter a reference to the fact that Tampa coach Firmani had suddenly and inexplicably resigned two days earlier, immediately after his team's 4-2 triumph over the Cosmos.

The rumours have been flying ever since that he is coming to New York. Be that as it may, it was noticeable that the banners had been quietly tucked away during the second half as the Cosmos were scoring their six goals.

Beckenbauer is still at the diplomatic stage of his American career. He avoids questions about his new teammates, or answers them with generalities. "He is very disappointed, he is sorry now that he came," said a German journalist, one of nearly 80 who followed the Cosmos around during Beckenbauer's first two weeks here. "He is nobody here, the players are all much inferior to him."

True or not? I would say not. During the course of an hour's conversation with him and his wife Brigitte in their hotel room in Manhatten, I had the strong impression of a couple very much excited by their American adventure. Although they had been in the city for two weeks, they had been so busy that they had not yet had time to go looking for apartments or houses.

Surprised

"I am feeling very, very good" said Beckenbauer. "Everyone here is very friendly, they want to help us. The stadium is beautiful, and I am surprised at the standard of the American teams. I had never seen an American soccer game before I came, but the standard is good, much better than the other countries know. And here in New York I am surprised about the spectators, they know much about football, they cheer and whistle for the right things."

The only problems Beckenbauer mentioned had to do with communicating. Communicating with his new team-mates . . . and communicating with the hotel staff. "We could not understand the waiters, or make them understand us," said Brigitte. "We thought it was our bad English. But now we find out it is their bad English. One of them is Spanish, another is Polish."

HAS KEEGAN THE RIGHT C

HAS KEVIN KEEGAN made the right choice in joining the new European Cup Winners Cup holders Hamburg SV? Many Germans think that he is making a big mistake in coming to this particular club. There is nothing wrong with the financial aspect of his move, for Hamburg are a wealthy club thanks to big gates, commercial sponsorship and their recent run of success in European tournaments. And the salary reputedly £90,000 a year is five times bigger than any footballer in Britain commands today. So what more could the talented and likeable Keegan be asking?

Report by ARTHUR ROTMIL

Kevin Keegan signs for Hamburg watched by Liverpool chairman John Smith (left) and Dr. Peter Krohn, chairman of Hamburg. The fee was £500,000.

Well, for a start, I doubt very much if anyone has explained to him in greater detail how the Hamburger Sport Verein is run, and more specifically by whom. Their brilliant coach Kuno Klötzer, who has been responsible for their strength on the playing field has recently resigned after months of unsavoury wrangling with the club's general manager, the controversial Dr. Peter Krohn, the man who bought Keegan.

Hamburg's new coach is the "globetrotter" Rudi Gutendorf (50), a man who has coached in Europe, America and Africa. His managerial activities included spells as national coach of Tunisia, with TSV Marl Hüls, MSV Duisburg, VfB Stuttgart, St. Louis Stars (USA), Schalke, Kickers Offenbach, Sporting Cristal (Peru), as national manager of Chile, with 1860 Munich, then in USA, Bolivia, Venezuela and Valladolid (Spain). Later back with Fortuna Cologne and as a government (!) employed coach in Trinidad, Antigua, Botswana (South Africa) and lately with Tennis Borussia (Berlin), who have just been relegated . . .

"When Herr Gutendorf was with MSV Duisburg he turned a team of unknowns into championship runners-up. That impressed me so much that I decided he is the right man for Hamburg", explains Dr. Krohn the new partnership which the Germans call a "marriage" between two human volcanoes!

Revolutionise

The two men spent a week on the island of Sylt preparing their plans to make Hamburg SV the new *Bundesliga* champions. Rudi Gutendorf says: "I wrote a long letter to Dr. Krohn suggesting that any player who did not show convincing form, or at least tried his best, should be dismissed. We need at least two top class men."

True enough Dr. Krohn has engaged Keegan and the Yugoslav World Cup full back Ivan Buljan (28) who holds 30 caps. "We want to revolutionise German football," proclaims Dr. Krohn. "I have complete confidence in Rudi Gutendorf and between us we shall lead Hamburg to new glories."

Objective observers recall, however, similar trumpet blowing made upon the engagement of Kuno Klötzer. This excellent coach never got on with Krohn who is regarded as arrogant, dogmatic and dictatorial. Whenever Hamburg won, it was Dr. Krohn who would hold the centre stage at the Press interviews telling everybody how "his" team won. But after a defeat he would point to Klötzer and say: "Go, talk to him, he is responsible for the defeat". Dr. Krohn and Klötzer clashed publicly many times, especially after Hamburg's 1:3 defeat to Atletico Madrid, when they screamed at each other across the hotel lobby!

Klötzer finally called it a day and has since joined Hertha Berlin. But it is significant that when Hamburg won the Cup Winners Cup the players carried Klötzer on their shoulders in triumph and the thousands of German fans chanted "Kuno, Kuno", thus saluting the man who brought them victory.

Furthermore the players specifically asked the management not to break up the winning side, but to keep them together for next season. But now, not only is the team torn apart, not only did Klötzer leave, but with Gutendorf another "showman" has appeared alongside the megalomanic and flamboyant Dr. Krohn.

AN MADE CHOICE?

Into this loaded atmosphere now steps Kevin Keegan, a young man uprooted from his country and way of life, but most of all from the "homely" circle at Anfield Road, where Bill Shankly and now Bob Paisley carried on in a simple, friendly, almost fatherly, but effective manner.

Keegan will soon find out that both Dr. Krohn and Rudi Gutendorf, not to mention the fans, are only interested in success and will not tolerate human failings. Worse still, he may find that several players will resent his and Buljan's arrival for which two established men must vacate their places. Keegan will not find it easy settling down to playing with Hamburg.

Other "mercenaries" have found out that there are definite barriers. And British "emigrants" have, in the majority, rarely settled down to successful careers abroad. Ask Jimmy Greaves, Dennis Law, Joe Baker and more recently Duncan McKenzie!

Keegan's social life may not be as badly affected for his wife Jean supposedly speaks German, they have no children to worry about and should make friends easily among the considerable British colony in Northern Germany, where a number of British troops are still stationed. But he will be exposed to tensions within the club and how he survives those is anybody's guess.

Financially he could not have made it elsewhere, for most German clubs would have refused to pay £500,000 for him — Bayern Munich who called it "a ridiculous fee" and Borussia Mönchengladbach, who on hearing it didn't even bother to make further enquiries, in fact said "No" to Keegan.

Hamburg were in a position where the club simply had to unload its huge profits to avoid paying a hefty tax! Hamburg's takings last season were in excess of £2,500,000! The club is raking in the money from commercial sponsorship as well. The well known Japanese electronics firm of "Hitachi" who make stereos, television sets, radios, etc., pay £125,000 a year for their name being worn on the players' jerseys. Only Borussia Mönchengladbach earn more money in Germany from their sponsors.

HSV's main income comes naturally through the gates. The team plays in the Volksparkstadion, modernised for the World Cup finals of 1974. It offers room for 61,418 spectators, including 28,614 seated, of which 19,182 are under cover.

Admission to Bundesliga championship matches ranges from £2 on the terraces to £3.75 for an uncovered seat and up to £6 for the best seat. There are, incidentally, reductions for schoolboys, students and invalids.

The Volksparkstadion is not always full, but games against top League opposition like Bayern Munich, Borussia Mönchengladbach for instance, and some top clashes in the European Cup competitions draw capacity crowds. On such occasions receipts can reach £160,000! From last season's marvellous run in the Cup Winners tourney the HSV hoped to clear over £700,000! Little wonder that Hamburg have made a record profit of £1.12 million over the past two financial years. With this kind of money they are able to tempt top stars who are usually engaged on short term contracts.

Keegan's salary is not the highest at HSV. Internationals like Kargus ('keeper) Nogly (libero) and Volkert (forward) are the top earners there. Next season the club are hoping to cash in even more, since the local club St. Pauli has been promoted and should fill the ground for the local derby. In addition, HSV and Liverpool will stage their games for the so-called "Supercup" in November and December, the home club taking all receipts!

The club management is quite generous. They promised their men £3,750 each for winning the Cup Winners trophy, but after the triumph over Anderlecht this was increased to £4,500. It is clear that they look after their playing staff very well and are keen to reward success. But it remains to be seen whether all the financial inducements can compensate Kevin Keegan for the happiness which he got out of playing for Liverpool, but which he may not find in Hamburg.

Kevin Keegan (7) with close shadow Berti Vogts during the European Cup Final.

South American review by Eric Weil

BOCA JUNIORS UNBEATABLE

THE displays of Venezuela's champions, Portuguesa, the utter concentration on the trophy of Argentine champions Boca Juniors who have yet to concede a goal, a strange committee decision in favour of Brazil's champions Internacional and some close fighting for semi final places have been the highlights of preliminary group play in the 1977 Libertadores Cup which was virtually completed as World Soccer went to press.

Starting in numerical order, Boca Juniors won group 1 gaining 10 points out of a possible 12 by scoring only five goals — two of them penalties — but conceding none. Following coach Juan Carlos Lorenzo's idea of doing everything possible to avoid defeat and trying for victory if possible in these short tournaments, Boca's defence bore the brunt of most matches.

With a sound back line of Pernia, Sa, Mouzo and Tarantini (in front of outstanding goalkeeper Gatti), which played unchanged in all six matches, and halves — they sometimes played with five and only one forward — whose main aim in life is to destroy opposing attacks, Boca were unbeatable. Their line-up was virtually unchanged for the cup games while they frequently fielded reserves in league matches. But when Peñarol (by then already eliminated) defended from the start and forced Boca into an attacking game they are not used to, they looked ragged and took 44 minutes to score the only goal.

As usual, Boca's sometimes rough defence and counter attack game was not nice to watch, but it won them the group even before the last match against River Plate. Against Peñarol there were no less than 61 fouls, but then in Libertadores Cup matches it is generally rare to see a movement of more than three passes at the best of times.

Uruguayan champions Defensor's style is similar to Boca's but their players are not quite so good, while Peñarol — the club which has taken part in all but one Libertadores Cup — was frankly disappointing with their star, Fernando Morena, still off the goal trail.

In group 2, Bolivia's Bolivar and Oriente Petrolero, with practically all that country's national team in their lineups, seemed to have a slight edge over Colombia's Nacional and Deportivo Cali both coached by Argentines — Osvaldo Zubeldia who took Estudiantes de La Plata to three Libertadores Cup successes on the run and Carlos Bilardo who played in that team. Nacional, the Colombian champions, were expected to do better. They lost their first four games which put them out of it.

Runners up River Plate are considered to have the best playing staff in Argentina, but their weaker defence makes them less suited to the Cup. Apart from that, they had a few players sent off and suspended, failed to score from two penalties against Defensor (1-1) and lost a 2-0 lead against Peñarol (2-2) in the last 20 minutes.

Cali, who are a point behind Bolivar with one game to go, often played the kind of anti-football for which Estudiantes became famous and they had three men sent off against Bolivar who beat them 3-0. Cali improved their chances with a 3-0 home win in the second leg over Bolivar who defended all the way. Cali's final game was at home to Oriente Petrolero who also still had a chance, while Bolivar were at home to Nacional who, although out of it, could do their co-nationals a favour.

In group 3, where Brazil's representatives had it harder than expected against Ecuador's clubs, it depended on a protest over the inclusion of players under suspension by Internacional de Porto Alegre (Brazil) against Sao Paulo's Corinthians. This was first made by Nacional (Ecuador) — who, in the end, could not have benefited by it — and belatedly by Corinthians who could have benefited by it but apparently had not noticed anything wrong.

Internacional beat Corintians 1-0, lining up Batista and Escurinho who had been sent off in a previous match. The protest was however not discussed until all group games had been played with Internacional winning by two points. In the final games the Brazilian teams went all out for big scores against Ecuador's representatives as goal difference could have decided if Internacional lost the points to Corintians. The latter beat Deportivo Cuenca 4-0, but Internacional could only beat Nacional 2-0 and the Sao Paulo team finished with the better goal difference.

But then the South American Football Confederation (CSF) decided to accept Internacional's excuse that the advice of suspension had arrived too late although it is a rule in the Libertadores Cup that all players sent off are automatically suspended.

The closest fight was in group 4 with all four teams still in with a chance until their final game. Paraguay's champions Libertad reached the semi finals at their first attempt with a close 2-1 home victory over Chilean champions Everton (also taking part in the Cup for the first time) in the last game.

And it looked as if a Venezuelan team will make the semi finals for the first time. Portuguesa, the 1976 champions, virtually clinched it by taking three out of four points from Peru's Union Huaral and Sport Boys away from home. Now they need only a home win against already eliminated Sport Boys to win the group. Portuguesa, of course, line up a goodly number of foreign players, including former Brazilian World Cup player Jairzinho, but he has been out of Cup games due to injury. Venezuela's other representatives, Estudiantes de Merida, gave a helping hand by beating both the Peruvian teams.

CORDOBA...

CORDOBA, 700 km (435 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires, in the mountainous province of the same name, is practically in the centre of the country and, mainly for that reason, was once talked about as a possible administrative capital for Argentina.

It is the country's third largest city (behind Buenos Aires and Rosario), an hour's flight from Buenos Aires and it has recently become the centre of the country's automobile industry with both Renault and Fiat having their main plants there. It is also a university city and, in times of trouble, a hotbed for revolutionaires. Sportswise it has strong soccer teams — the best outside Buenos Aires — and a record of big gates at matches (often bigger than in Bueonos Aires).

Climatically it is a hot dust bowl in summer surrounded by mountains, but has a dry, cool climate in winter in which European teams should feel at home (as World Cup matches will be played during the local winter). World champions West Germany have already eyed the place as possible headquarters.

The new stadium being built in a charming setting at Chateau Carrera, some 12 km from the centre of town, will hold 53,000 spectators. It is situated in another of the numerous valleys among the mountains making up most of the province and its construction is well ahead of other World Cup stadiums. The stadium itself is similar in style and installations to other World Cup stadiums being built in Mendoza and Mar del Plata which have been described in previous issues of WORLD SOCCER. Around it a whole sports complex (including an auxiliary field with a stand for 5,000 people) is going up and during World Cup time a giant, mostly industrial exhibition will be held there.

Junior win for Uruguay

URUGUAY, making up for the failure of their senior team in this year's World Cup qualifying matches, won a close South American junior championship played in Venezuela (in April/May) and qualified for the first Junior World Cup finals together with second placed Brazil and third placed Paraguay. The close games were a surprise as players in different teams had had different degrees of senior league and international experience.

Uruguay and Brazil, both of whom went through the tournament unbeaten (Uruguay playing seven games and Brazil six) faced each other in the first match of the final round and both played defensively to avoid conceding goals. The result was no score and they were still even after the second round in which Uruguay beat Paraguay and Brazil beat Chile, both by 1-0 scores.

Uruguay eventually took the title on goal difference (5-0 to Brazil's 4-1) when in final games Uruguay beat Chile 4-0 and Brazil could only beat Paraguay 3-1. These results also decided the third qualifying place on goal difference as Paraguay and Chile finished with a point each, but Paraguay's 2-5 goals record was superior to Chile's 1-5.

Argentina, one of the pre tournament favourites, were a disappointment. Although only losing two matches 2-1 and drawing the other two, they finished bottom of their group. The attack lacked punch and experience. The team had played no warm up international matches like most other participants.

Rivelino . . . in sparkling form for Brazil recently.

TICKETS for the World Cup will be sold abroad through a network of Argentine travel agencies.

320,000 special World Cup coins will be minted for Agentina in Chile in three values — 1000, 2000 and 3000 pesos (£1.65, 3.30 and 5) weighing 10, 15 and 25 grs respectively.

Confederation decide dates

AFTER Brazil, Peru and Bolivia had failed to agree on where to play off their World Cup South American final group games, the South American Football Confederation stepped in to fix them for Cali, Colombia (venue for the 1986 World Cup) on July 10 (Brazil v Peru), July 14 (Brazil v Bolivia) and July 17 (Bolivia v Peru).

Both Brazil and Bolivia wanted to stage the games in their country, but the other two refused in spite of cash offers. None of the three wanted home and away fixtures to avoid excessive travelling and extra expenses. (Bolivia, according to its FA president, Mauro Cuellar, had already lost 80,000 dollars on the preliminary games against Uruguay and Venezuela.)

Then Caracas (Venezuela) and Buenos Aires were mentioned as possible neutral venues. The former was over-ruled when it was found that the biggest stadium in Caracas was in bad need of repairs and only held 25,000 — World Cup games had been played in a stadium with only 5,000 capacity — and the Argentine FA refused because Buenos Aires' best stadiums were closed for repairs in preparation for the World Cup finals (although there are quite a number of other large stadiums available in the city).

Cali's Pascual Guerrero stadium holds over 65,000. The town (pop. one million) is a 1,000 metres above sea level, has an average temperature of 25°C and, as far as climatic conditions are concerned, will most suit the Peruvians.

Once everything was fixed, Bolivia's FA present Cuellar complained about the fixtures which made his team play their two games in four days, while Brazil and Peru had eight days rest between theirs. He said Bolivia were the "outsiders" because Brazil had pull with FIFA through its President Joao Havelange while the S.A. Football Confederation was little more than an agency for Peru through its Peruvian president, Teofilo Salinas.

Brazil are generally considered favourites in spite of their relatively poor show in winning their group — the excessive defensive play in their 0-0 away draw against Colombia (which caused coach Osvaldo Brandao to be "forced out") and their unconvincing 1-0 win and 1-1 draw against Paraguay.

Nothing but first place will satisfy Brazilian officials and the country's numerous soccer fans — practically the entire 110 million population. Twenty three players were due to be called up for rigid training and concentration before the end of May to play warm-up games against England, Scotland, Poland, West Germany, France and Yugoslavia before leaving for Cali on July 6. According to coach Osvaldo Coutinho, this will be the basis of the squad for the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina. Note that the remote possibility of elimination before then is not even being considered. Coutinho may call up a number of newcomers, notably Socrates and Ze Mario of Botafogo de Ribeirao Preto, the season's surprise team in the Sao Paulo state league.

The very first match could decide it. Peru are considered dangerous rivals, lining up what is probably the best forward line in South America with such experienced World Cup veterans as Rojas, Ramirez, Sotil and Oblitas.

The Peruvian squad left on a six match Central American tour in May (drawing 1-1 with Mexico in the first game) to prepare for the finals and, in the words of coach Marcos Calderon, to get the players together in a family group again after 45 days with their clubs since the preliminary group games against Chile and Ecuador in which Peru did so well.

Peru's World Cup effort is also being organised and financed directly by a government committee and for once a national team has been given preference over the aspirations of its champion and vice-champion clubs in the Libertadores Cup.

Amateur Cup to continue

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

TALKING about tournaments. Unnecessary ones. The European Cup was scarcely safe in Liverpool's dressing-room in Rome, that splendid evening, when Bob Paisley wisely replied to a questioning journalist that Liverpool would not be taking part in the so called Intercontinental Championship, alias the world cup for clubs; there was enough to be done at home and in Europe.

Hallelujah, I thought; the more so as, Heaven help us, the UEFA Secretary, Hans Bangerter, had that very morning made a comical statement on the future of the — so called — European Amateur Cup. It was, despite all logic, all the evidence, going to continue..

Let's deal with it and its silly, superfluous existence first. Herr Bangerter, speaking at the Press Conference of the Excelsior Hotel, in a splendid chamber, first traced the tawdy history of the competition, admitting that it "has long been the 'poor relation' in the family of European competitions."

Can anybody wonder?

One marvels at the fact that such a misbegotten tournament should be introduced as late as 1965, when amateurism in soccer was the deadest of dead letters, even though, as Banger ingenuously said, "only some 2% to 3% of footballers in Europe are non-amateurs or professionals." But these, caro mio, are the ones who count.

In this first competition, UEFA decided to restrict participation to "those countries where amateur football was overshadowed by a superior category of players". This ruled out all the hypocritical Iron Curtain countries, and a good thing too, together with those of Scandinavia, where the definition of amateurism is somewhat blurred still. A mere twelve teams competed in the first three versions of the competition; then Great Britain belatedly made honest men of its senior amateur clubs and players; and then there were four . . . less.

UEFA now — wait for it — feels it "expedient to open up the tournament and place in on a broader basis than hitherto. This could be done, for instance, by finding a more realistic definition of amateurism." (Like people who don't get paid?)

No; not like people who don't get paid. What we apparently want is "a more liberal interpretation". Like people who do get paid, but not very much?

Wrong again. UEFA are looking for "certain safety valve measures," such as a rule which fixes a maximum number of players eligible for the new Amateur (amateur?) tournament who have "already played a specific number of games in the European Championship or the World Cup." Bang away, Bangerter. At this point, amateurism jumps clean out of the window, and one is left to recall the only joke that horrible old saurian the late Avery Brundage is ever known to have made.

Told by Sir Stanley Rous, then President of FIFA, that the vast majority of soccer players were amateurs, the Olympic President replied, "Yes, but none of those seem to play in the Olympic Games".

Why UEFA want an amateur tournament at all at this moment of the game's history baffles reason. Empire building again, I suppose. Bang away, Bangerter.

Solti— UEFA to act?

AN interlude on Lobo-Solti. It appears that something will at least be done when UEFA's Executive Committee meet next September. It had better be. But what can and will they, however reluctantly do? We now know that Juventus told lies when they said they knew nothing of Solti, that he unquestionably acted as their official agent in Holland in 1971. It is therefore to be presumed – a wholly different matter from proving – that he was still their man when he tried to bribe Lobo to bend the Derby County Euro semi-final in 1973.

There are those who believe Giampiero Boniperti, former captain of Italy and the President of Juventus, knew nothing of Solti's "mission," though the outrageous refereeing of the outrageous Ortiz de Mendibil in the first Juventus-Twente Fairs Cup-tie in 1971 suggests that there'd been dirty work at the crossroads before.

In fact we all know perfectly well, don't we, who sent Solti, who "ran" him for years with the Internazionale of Milan (remember Ortiz de Mendibil's virtuoso performance "against" Liverpool in the 1965 Euro Cup semi-final in Milan?) It might just be the same fellow who organised the pathetically unsuccessful attempt to bribe the Poles in the World Cup match in Stuttgart in 1974. It might even be the same fellow who came up to me in Rome on the morning of the Euro Final last May and said he very much wanted to talk to me.

I'll willingly talk to almost anybody, but I don't accept Picasso paintings, nor paid convalescence in expensive clinics for my wife, so I am a little unsure what, this summer some time, we are eventually going to talk about. We'll see.

BACK to the world club Championship, of unhallowed memory. If this column seems inordinately devoted to UEFA baiting, perhaps this is because UEFA has such a wretched record in so many sectors.

Not least over this hideous, long running serial, which includes such episodes as the gory Racing-Celtic matches in Buenos Aires and Montevideo in 1967, Estudiantes' brutal treatment of Manchester United on the Boca Juniors ground in 1968, their still more vicious assaults on Milan, a year later, when President General Onganía threw three of their ruffians into gaol.

When, after winning the Euro Cup in 1971, Ajax very properly refused to compete against Nacional, of Montevideo, for the title, UEFA threatened to fine them, and eventually threw in the runners-up, feeble Panathinaikos. In 1973, it was the runners-up who again competed in the shape of Juventus after Ajax, kicked to bits in Buenos Aires the previous year, once more refused to take part. A solitary game was played in Rome, Juventus barely bothered to raise a gallop, Independiente won, and celebrated as though they had won World War III.

Civilised

Last year, things weren't so bad. A Brazilian team, in the shape of Cruzeiro, won the Libertadores Cup, and played two civilised games against their conquerors, Bayern Munich. The Brazilian press warmly complimented the West Germans for their fine display in the draw 0-0 return game in Belo Horizonte. But it's usually, alas, an Argentinian side which takes the South American trophy, and the thought of playing Boca Juniors, managed by that douce and charming personality, Juan Carlos Lorenzo, long established friend of the English, is enough to make the blood freeze.

South American teams desperately need the world club Cup, to repair their parlous finances. European teams need it like a hole in the head.

CINDERELLA FOR THE BALL?

AS England toil with increasing difficulty and waning hope to reach the World Cup finals next year, the remaining British Colony in the Far East, Hongkong, incredibly stand an outside chance of making it to Argentina.

Hongkong, long cast as the Cinderella country in the soccer crazy Orient, have grown up rapidly and produced a climatic shock when they quite comfortably won the Asian Group One World Cup elimination competition recently in Singapore.

The all-Chinese team went to Singapore as outsiders behind Indonesia, the world's sixth most populous nation and long a Far Eastern soccer power coached by, among others, Dutch mentor Willie Coerver, ex-Ajax. They were also considered inferior to Malaysia who have campaigned with some success in the Olympics.

Hongkong produced the first and ultimately the biggest surprise of the tournament when they slammed Indonesia 4-1 in the opening game. Before the game the present Indonesian coach, Yugoslav Tony Puganic had virtually scoffed at Hongkong's professional team — the only one in the five nation tournament — and was supremely confident that his team had the answers needed.

The result demoralised Indonesia who finished second bottom and returned in disgrace to a reception reminiscent of the one given to the Italians following the North Korea debacle in 1966. It hasn't finished yet, either. The Indonesians went on to cancel the Jakarta Invitation tournament, sack the coach, see three chairmen resign from the PSSI (the Indonesian FA) and instigate a full scale inquiry into the Singapore "disgrace".

Winning goal

After their opening display of power play Hongkong were promptly installed favourites and won the tournament with a 1-0 triumph over hosts Singapore in the special play-off. The winning goal, scored by a brilliant young winger, Lau Wing-yip, was seen by millions on British television.

The Singapore result saw Hongkong over the first hurdle and the crunch now comes. The representative for Asia-Oceania in Argentina will come from: South Korea, Hongkong, Australia, Iran or Kuwait.

Despite efforts to have it played off in a round-robin tournament or in two separate competitions with a play-off between the winners of the sub-sections, representatives of the countries meeting in Hongkong could not agree and the final Asian eliminator will be on a home-and-away basis, as decreed by FIFA.

It's interesting to note that this will almost certainly entail the greatest number of air miles travelled by competitors in any World Cup group. Australia must fly to South Korea, then Iran and Kuwait in the Middle East. Little wonder there are grim rumblings

From
ROBIN PARKE
in Hong Kong

from Down Under about the expense involved. Australian Soccer Federation President, Sir Arthur George and secretary, Mr Brian Le Fevre,' are understandably extremely concerned about the expense which will be incurred . . . if Australia fail to qualify.

The Australians were Asia's last representatives in West Germany in 1974 but they are far from being a certainty to get through this time.

Hongkong, meanwhile, will get the ball rolling in last June and early July by playing Iran and South Korea at home and then taking on Australia in Adelaide on July 10.

There is a growing confidence that Hongkong, who have never played better, could shock both Iran and Korea at home. They have already beaten a weakened Australia in Canberra last year and they will not face the present side with any great trepidation in Adelaide.

Iran appear to be the logical choice as Asia's representatives. Playing a more robust, European-style game they are physically tougher than the Hongkong Chinese or even the South Koreans although the Koreans did their cause a lot of good by ousting the Israelis in the first Asian Group Two competition.

Hongkong have always had exceptionally gifted individual players. The Chinese are superb artists on the ball but have frequently shown a lack of co-ordination and a will to go on with it, if things get sticky early on. Credit for the resurgence of the national team must go to imported coach Frans Van Balkom. The 39-year-old Dutchman had a less than illustrious playing career and was involved in Australian soccer for many years.

He was appointed to the job almost in desperation but he has taken his chance with both hands. He has concentrated on getting his players to work with one another and he has campaigned on their behalf for better conditions all round. He has been rewarded with their support and enthusiasm . . . plus a string of very good results.

Balkom views the second leg of his World Cup assignment with a studied confidence. "I do not consider the timing of the games to be as I would have wished — a lot of emphasis is obviously based on our first two games which we cannot possibly lose to have any realistic hope of getting to Argentina.

"I think a lot of people in Asian soccer are now coming round to the view that Hongkong could, incredible as it may seem, be Asia's representatives. Nobody gave us a chance of getting beyond the first Asian elimination round but we easily proved them wrong and that did wonders for the team," he added.

Hongkong will not lack vocal support in their home games. The present Hongkong Stadium seats just under 30,000 and it is simply impossible to buy tickets.

Certainly, at this stage, Hongkong's hopes of reaching Argentina are every bit as bright as England's. It's a funny old world of soccer!

● A probable showdown of immense significance to Asian soccer appears to be coming up between FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation, the continent's ruling body. Recently FIFA gave the AFC a 90 day deadline — due to expire in August — to reinstate Taiwan and Israel and expel mainland China.

The AFC is now a mere tool in the hands of the pro-China, pro-Arab factions in Asian soccer and last year they unilaterally kicked out Israel — for security reasons — and admitted China, not a member of FIFA, expelling Taiwan, who do belong to the world body.

The powers that be in FIFA moved slowly but eventually got round to decreeing that China would not be admitted — the usual Chinese pre-requisite was the expulsion of Taiwan — and, therefore, could not belong to the AFC.

The wheels still turned slowly and the AFC, at a regular meeting of their Executive Committee, did nothing about the FIFA directive.

This was then followed up by a clearcut demand from the world body to reinstate Israel and Taiwan within 90 days or, presumably, face the consequences.

The current power men in the AFC are largely from Iran who are, obviously, totally anti-Israel and equally pro-China. From several statements made recently around Asia by leading members of the AFC Executive Committee it would seem that they are intent on defying FIFA.

The big question will then be: does FIFA, under their far from impressive president, Mr Joao Havelange, have the guts to take the issue to its ultimate showdown? That must be — toe the line, or face expulsion. Havelange, of course, is widely known for his stance on China and his wooing of the third world countries, but he can scarcely condone what would be a throwing down of the gauntlet by a subordinate body.

There could be perilous times ahead for some Asian countries but it would bode ill for world soccer in general if FIFA does not invoke the full powers they possess.

Champions Atletico improve their squad

NOT SATISFIED with the squad who landed the Spanish league title, Atletico Madrid have snapped up a player from the club who finished just one point behind them — Barcelona!

The player is 30-year-old Marcial Pina, the experienced international midfielder whose last few months have been the most traumatic of even his up and down career.

Marcial has never got on with Barcelona coach Rinus Michels, and didn't see eye-to-eye with Hennes Weisweiler 18 months ago when the German's experiment with the classy Marcial as sweeper proved a failure.

Marcial — along with Carlos Rexach — was dropped from the CFB squad this spring after skipping *retiro* and though, after a lot of talking by skipper Johan Cruyff, Rexach is back in the fold, Marcial never wanted to make peace. Accordingly he was granted a free transfer and Atletico were able to pick up a man they originally tried to sign four years ago, when they took the unsettled Miguel Reina from Barcelona.

Reina has since proved himself one of the most consistent goalkeepers in the league, and this season despite various unlucky injuries collected the Trofeo Zamora as the league's safest goalkeeper. Atletico conceded 33 goals in their 34 games — three of them in the last match, a surprise 3-2 home defeat by Valencia, when they already had the title won.

Relegation

With three games to go Atletico were clear favourites, holding a three-point lead over Barcelona. That particular Sunday Atletico were away to Zaragoza, fighting to avoid relegation, while CFB were home to city rivals Espanol.

Zaragoza have had plenty of internal problems, and they went a goal down after rickety defence work in the 19th minute when Ruben Cano rifled home an incisive pass from Robi. Joao Leivinha, happily fit again and back in form, laid on the second in the 63rd minute for skipper Ruben Ayala.

Meanwhile Barcelona kept their faint hopes alive by beating Espanol 4-2, with two goals each from Manolo Clares and Juan Manuel Asensi.

Clares, in fact, could have had his third hat-trick of the season, but missed a penalty. Those spot kick failings really let Cruyff and Co down this year!

That left Atletico knowing that to be certain of their eighth league title they would need to beat neighbours and outgoing champions Real Madrid in Chamartin the following Sunday.

But before that vital clash several developments came about. The first was news of the agreement to transfer Marcial, who had spent eight years at Nou Camp after moving from Espanol and, before that, Elche. Marcial signed a two-year contract worth £100,000, but Barcelona stipulated that he couldn't play for Atletico before July 1 — after the Cup competition in which CFB and Atletico were still involved.

However they did agree that Marcial could make his first appearance in Atletico colours for the testimonial match against Athletic Bilbao for Jose Eulogio Garate, the Atletico club captain and Spain centre forward who had been forced to retire a few months ago.

● *Continued on page 44.*

ATLETICO League squad 1976-77

	Played	Goals	Prev. club	Age	Intl	Pos
Ruben AYALA	34	13	San Lorenzo	27	Argentina	F
Ruben CANO	33	20	Elche	26	Spain	CF
Eugenio LEAL	33	3	Youth product	24	Spain	MF
Luis PEREIRA	32	4	Palmeiras	28	Brazil	D
Miguel REINA	29(1)		Barcelona	31	Spain	GK
Jose Luis CAPON	28(1)		Plus Ultra	29	Spain	FB
ALBERTO Gonzalez	27(4)	1	Valladolid	33		MF
Antonio ROBI	26(2)	2	Salamanca	26		MF
MARCELINO Perez	25(3)		Sabadell	21		FB/MF
EUSEBIO Bejerano	24(4)		Badajoz	29		D
Domingo BENEGAS	14(3)		Libertad	30	Paraguay	D
Joao LEIVINHA	14(1)	8	Palmeiras	27	Brazil	F
*Ruben DIAZ	13	1	Racing B. Aires	31	Argentina	FB
Ramon HEREDIA	11(3)	2	San Lorenzo	26	Argentina	MF/D
Francisco BERMEJO	9(11)	3	Badajoz	22		MF
Francisco AGUILAR	8(10)	2	Rayo Vallecano	25		F
Ignacio SALCEDO	6(6)	2	Plus Ultra	30		MF
Jose Luis PACHECO	5		Rayo Cantabria	30		GK
**Jose Eulogio GARATE	1		Indauchu	32	Spain	F
***Heraldo BECERRA	1		Newells Old Boys	28		F
Rafael SIERRA	1		At. Madrileno	22		MF

Coach: Luis Aragones.
Assistants: Joaquin Peiro; Javier Garcia Cuesta.
Captain: Ruben Ayala.

*—now with Racing Buenos Aires
**—now retired
***—returned to Boca Juniors in Argentina, then killed in car crash.

MICHELS STAYS

THE WALTZ of the trainers promises to be a comparatively smooth one this summer.

Already **Luis Aragones** (Atletico Madrid), **Rinus Michels** (Barcelona) and **Miljan Miljanic** (Real Madrid) are staying on for another year — Luis a popular decision, but those of Michels and Miljanic not so unanimously approved.

Doyen of the coaches remains **Jose Santamaria.** The former Nacional, Real Madrid, Uruguay and Spain stopper continues for a seventh year with Espanol, whom he took to sixth place last season.

Santamaria joined the Madrid youth coaching staff after retiring in 1966, then the FEF as Spain's youth coach, before taking his first senior job with the Barcelona club.

Also staying on is **Koldo Aguirre,** former international winger, who was Bilbao's surprise choice last summer. Aguirre has had an outstanding first season in the big-time, steering Bilbao to third place in the league and to the UEFA Cup Final, and he well deserved a pay rise which lifts his earnings to £40,000 a year.

Also staying in the north is **Jose Antonio Irulegui,** set for a third season in charge of Bilbao's rivals, Real Sociedad de San Sebastian, while **Jose Maria Maguregui** is rewarded with an extension for having saved Santander from relegation by the skin of their teeth.

Luis Cid, better known as **Carriega,** looks forward to a second year with Sevilla and must be having a quiet smile at the expense of Zaragoza who, sacking him after five solid, worthwhile years, were relegated.

Rayo Vallecano, newcomers to the first division next season, come on up without their coach, Javier Garcia Verdugo. The board want someone with more experience and, having failed to lure Roque Olsen from UEFA Cup-bound Las Palmas, seem likely to settle on one-time Madrid centre forward **Sabino Barinaga.**

Another former Madrid man back in the first division next season will be **Enrique Mateos,** inside right in the 1957 and 1959 Champions' Cup-winning teams, who is coach to Cadiz.

Ulrich Stielike, transferred from Borussia Monchengladbach to Real Madrid.

News from Spain

by Keir Radnedge

VICTOR DAMAS, former Sporting Lisbon goalkeeper, hopes to return to Portugal after a harassing time in his first year in Spain. Santander's goals-against record of 62 in 34 games was the worst in the first division.

VALENCIA face more upheavals. Johnny Rep has bought out the remaining year of his three-year contract and is negotiating a return nearer home — to Ajax or Feyenoord, Anderlecht or RWD Molenbeek — while French midfielder Michel Platini is the *Ches'* No 1 target to fill the role of second foreigner alongside Mario Kempes. A Platini deal is doubly important. French coach Marcel Domingo has stipulated that Valencia must land Platini if they want *him* to take over this summer.

ATHLETIC BILBAO, having paid a club record of £280,000 last summer for Gijon's Ignacio Churruca, may have to top that if they want Real Sociedad's centre forward, Jesus Satrustegui. That would be an auspicious start to the reign of newly-elected president, Jesus Dunabeitia — who won the recent poll by a hair-splitting 10 votes in more than 500!

THE MAGAZINE *Don Balon* have named this XI as their best of the season: Iribar (Bilbao) — Ramos, Migueli (both Barcelona), Luis Pereira (Atletico Madrid), Camacho (Real Madrid) — Neeskens (Barcelona), Churruca (Bilbao), Leal (Atletico Madrid) — Juanito (Burgos now Real Madrid), Cruyff (Barcelona), Kempes (Valencia).

REAL MADRID GO OUT OF EUROPE

AFTER 21 years in Europe — ever since the first Champions Cup was set under way — Real Madrid will NOT be in any of the draws for next season.

It's the crowning indignity to a season which their fans are describing as the worst for 30 years and which was concluded in an ignominious 2-1 defeat away to Malaga, who had already been condemned to relegation.

Add to that a defeat by Hercules in an early round of the Cup and you have the reasons why Madrid's officials are anxiously at work in the transfer market to strengthen the ranks and find potential long-term replacements for veterans such as Pirri — even though he stays on for a year or two after turning down a £1.2 million offer from New York Cosmos.

Earlier this year I reported Madrid's signing of Juanito from Burgos. But even this switch hasn't gone through smoothly. No sooner had the league season finished and the player arrived in Madrid, than he demanded a pay rise!

Juanito has been outstanding in the second half of the season, keeping Burgos up virtually single-handed and he based his case on the fact that he must therefore be worth more now than he was four months ago when Burgos looked booked for a quick return to the second division.

Once safely folded in the Madrid arms, he quietened down and compromise was agreed. At any rate, when Madrid set off for Mexico and some prestige friendlies, Juanito was in the party and, surprise, surprise, Manuel Velazquez wasn't.

Velazquez, who has spent more time in the past couple of years in a contract dispute than playing, was disappointed but hardly as surprised as some fans. It's not much of a secret that he and manager Miljan Miljanic don't see eye to eye on his role at Chamartin.

Velazquez might well have been freed to leave a year or two ago had it been up to Miljanic, but the former Spanish international schemer has friends in high places and, as a Madrid youth product, doesn't fancy leaving his own club at this late stage in his career.

How, and if, he can fit in with new schemer Uli Stielicke, remains to be seen. The West German FA have at last reluctantly acceded to the Stielicke deal, though they've made it clear the 22-year-old former Borussia Mönchengladbach man can forget about winning any more international caps in the next few years.

River Plate regain lead

by Eric Weil

RIVER PLATE regained a two-point lead at the top of the Argentine Metropolitan First Division on the last Sunday before press time, thanks mainly to a surprise 1-0 home defeat of Velez Sarsfield (with whom they had been sharing the lead) at the hands of lowly San Lorenzo. But River Plate's lead looks precarious in the light of internal problems once again cropping up.

On the previous Thursday, coach Labruna was again dictated to by a leading player on how to pick the team and was forced to make a change in defence under the threat from the team of not turning out for the Libertadores Cup match against Defensor in Montevideo. Labruna should have called their bluff—it was no longer a vital game anyway — and by not doing so he lost even more authority. The trouble is that Labruna's highly paid job with River Plate is as precarious as their league lead.

Then, during the game, the River Plate party's hotel rooms were broken into. Officials and players had money and valuables stolen and the players claim they should be refunded by the club's president, Aragon Cabrera, who also own the hotel. The day after all the club's professional staff were fined 20% of their May earnings — the maximum penalty allowed for not complying with contract terms — because they had walked out before the previous week's league match against Velez Sarsfield when the club refused to offer them higher bonuses. They turned up to play the vital top of the table clash at the last moment, but lost 2-1.

On Sunday River Plate edged two points ahead with a 2-1 win at Banfield where the home team had more of the ball but rarely reached goal and the league leaders were unimpressive. Marchetti is River Plate's top scorer with nine goals. The first eight came from headers, which must be something of a record.

Velez Sarsfield's Roldar, their most dangerous attacker and leading scorer (foreground).

Relegation

Champions Boca Juniors meanwhile fielded full reserve teams in two more of their last four league matches due to midweek Libertadores Cup commitments — a system which is not frowned upon or penalized here even when it can have a possible bearing on the course of the championship. Boca's reserves lost 1-0 to bottom FC Ceste, giving them their first win of the season (which could make a difference when it comes to relegation time). Earlier, however, they held Huracan 1-1, although the latter fielded five internationals.

Huracan, vice-champions last year, have been slipping lately, but watch them now that last year's coach, Antonio Juerez, is back with the club. Huracan were also interested in signing their former World Cup player Carlos Babington, presently here on holiday, from his West German club Wattenscheid 09. Babington would like to change clubs, but the 200,000 dollars asking price may be an obstacle.

Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata is another team with a new coach — ex-international centrehalf Ubaldo Rattin, famous for his sending off against England in the World Cup quarter final at Wembley in 1966 (when Argentina lost 1-0). Since retiring from soccer he spent some time on the staff of his former club, Boca Juniors, and later coached a provincial minor league team.

IN BRAZIL, Sao Paulo and Botafogo de Ribeiro Prato were about the decide first place in the 20-team first stage of the Sao Paulo state league in which the "City of Sao Paulo" Cup was also in play.

Sao Paulo's veteran midfield star, Pedro Rocha, the former Uruguayan World Cup player, was about to obtain Brazilian citizenship which would permit his club to sign another foreigner — each club is allowed to have one — Dario Pereyra, a current Uruguayan international, for 150,000 dollars from Nacional Montevideo.

In Rio, Vasco da Gama was leading the Carioca League by three points over Flamengo after winning 10 of their first 11 games. The Carioca League has been enlarged to 15 clubs, but the rumoured entry of Libertadores Cup holders Cruzeiro — because they lack competition in their own provincial league in Minas Gerais — did not materialize.

IN PERU, Alianza Lima, who have international forward Hugo Sotil back from Spain and also line up five other current World Cup players, have been moving up the table in the inter-zone championship since international players returned to their clubs following Peru's World Cup qualifying matches.

They are now only a point behind group A leaders Colegio Nacional Iquitos, while the Peruvian national champions, Union Huaral had already won group B with one match to go. The two group winners and the top four in the national championship (which was due to start on June 5) will this year play off for the Peruvian title and the two places in next year's Libertadores Cup.

IN COLOMBIA, champions Nacional, under Argentine coach Osvaldo Zubeldia and with a goodly number of Argentines in their line-up, have not only disappointed in the Libertadores Cup (in which they have lost all four games so far) but also in the "Apertura" league championship in which they are next to bottom.

IN CHILE, Aviación find themselves at the top of the First Division (for the first time) after four matches, while Chile's most popular club, Colo Colo, are halfway down the table.

Their fans have been quick to blame new Hungarian coach Ferenc Puskas whom they had looked upon as a saviour. Puskas told the press: "The problem lies in the mentality of the players."

But most space in Chile's papers recently was taken up by the debut of the first woman to referee professional soccer — 22-year-old physical education student Patricia Otarola who controlled the reserve game between two classical rivals Universidad Catolica and Universidad de Chile and, by all accounts, did it well.

International Microscope

World Cup place for Scotland

by ERIC BATTY

JUST as the coalfields of the North East once provided England with a host of talented players, so the coalfields of Lanarkshire supplemented the string of talented youngsters that spent almost all their waking hours kicking a ball about in the back streets of Glasgow.

But though Scotland still produced a lot of good players, most of whom are attracted to English clubs because the pay is better south of the border, very few can compare with the giants of Scotland's past.

I was almost weaned on two Scottish inside forwards, Jimmy Mason of Third Lanark and Tommy Walker of Hearts, who spent the peak of their careers guesting for London clubs during the war. Mason never received the honours his undoubted talents deserved, perhaps because he played for an unfashionable club, but the marvels this pair produced on the ball will live forever in my memory.

Another truly great player I saw from Scotland was Aston Villa full back George Cummings, bow legged and slightly tubby around the middle but he did everything with a touch of class. Speed merchants threatened to take him to the cleaners but somehow Cummings' positional play and anticipation tamed even the quickest and in his clashes with Stanley Matthews there were some incredible duels with the Scot pitting his wits against England's master craftsman. Cummings remains the most difficult full back to get past that I ever saw.

That may not please fans of George Young who came later, but for my money Cummings was twice as good.

Over the years since the days of Mason and Walker, Scottish players have generally lacked the craft and skill of the predecessors, almost entirely one assumes, because with higher living standards the players simply do not put in the necessary thousands of hours playing in scratch games when young. Of today's Scottish players only Danny McGrain and Martin Buchan really impress me, though clearly Kenny Dalglish has talent but he very often fails to play to his potential.

Overall Scotland's figures, which do not include the 1977 British championship, are very good but inevitably a very large proportion, in fact almost two thirds, were games against England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Against foreign opposition, particularly away from the British Isles, Scotland like England have not done half as well as their overall figures suggest.

Only twice have Scotland threatened to make an impact in the World Cup. The first occasion in 1954 came to grief when manager Andie Beattie fell out with the Scottish selectors, for in those days, now happily gone, the Scottish FA (like England) still insisted on picking their teams for the manager. After a series of disagreements in warm up games, Beattie finally quit the job during the final stages in Switzerland and Scotland came home without a point, having lost 0-1 to Austria and been hammered by Uruguay to the tune of 7-0! Willie Ormond has probably been Scotland's most successful manager to date winning the 1976 British championship and steering Scotland to the 1974 World Cup finals.

In Germany, however, Scotland failed to get past the first round in circumstances that baffled me. I was there in Dortmund when Scotland met Zaire and with goals so vitally important in case of a tie on points I could not understand it when, in the second half, winning by just 2-0, Billy Bremner the captain began to take the mickey or show off their superiority by playing keepball in midfield.

Yugoslavia later showed what might have been done by beating Zaire 9-0 and in the event, Brazil qualified too, knowing they had to beat Zaire 3-0 to qualify and just making it in the dying minutes.

If I had been Ormond, I would have given Bremner clear instructions from the line to get on with it and look for goals and if Bremner still persisted I would have taken him off and put on a substitute. But presumably Ormond either failed to realise how important goals might be or simply didn't want to upset Bremner, but whatever the reason it proved a costly and stupid mistake, and as a result, Scotland were eliminated.

After the 1975 defeat against England at Wembley when another in a whole line of Scottish goalkeepers died in the Wembley bowl, Scotland went through one of their most successful spells under Willie Ormond. Playing 13 matches they won 10 drew 2 and lost only one . . . 0-2 away to European champions Czechoslovakia who were at that time still able to field their full side.

For the immediate future, while many people think that Wales now hold the advantage in the Scotland-Wales-Czechoslovakia World Cup qualifying group, my view is that it should be Scotland all the way.

I can only assume that most of those who favour Wales did not see their 3-0 win over Czechoslovakia at Wrexham and were impressed by that. I was there, and my view is quite simply that the Czechs are now a very poor side indeed. Without goalkeeper Ivo Viktor (injured) and centre back Anton Ondrus who is suspended the Czechs just fell apart against Wales and surrendered almost without a fight.

Other Czech results since then underline that my view about them having 'gone' is the right one and if they send a similarly weak team to Hampden Park in the autumn the Czechs will get murdered.

That will leave the group to be settled by the Wales-Scotland game and in recent meetings, Scotland have won five times out of six and drawn the other game 2-2, so on paper they are favourites.

Of course a great deal depends on how quickly new manager Ally McLeod adjusts his thinking to the different world of international football which is far different from the club game. But Wales have no front players to match Joe Jordan for his ability in the air and his all-round strength and pace, nor a player with the skills of Eddie Gray (if fit) and Dalglish coming from midfield in the role that suits him best.

It should be Scotland all the way . . . unless Mr. McLeod makes a mess of it.

INTERNATIONAL MICROSCOPE . . . SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	Goals F	Goals A
Austria	12	3	3	6	15	24
Belgium	7	3	1	3	16	15
Brazil	4	0	2	2	1	3
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	13	0
Czechoslovakia	9	4	1	4	15	15
Denmark	10	8	0	2	18	8
Eire	4	2	1	1	8	3
England	94	37	22	35	161	172
Finland	4	4	0	0	13	3
France	7	5	0	2	10	6
Germany, East	1	1	0	0	3	0
Germany, West	9	3	4	2	16	13
Holland	6	3	1	2	8	7
Hungary	5	1	2	2	10	12
Ireland, North	81	57	11	13	244	74
Israel	1	1	0	0	2	1
Italy	3	1	0	2	1	6
Luxembourg	1	1	0	0	6	0
Norway	6	4	1	1	20	10
Paraguay	1	0	0	1	2	3
Peru	1	1	0	0	2	0
Poland	4	1	1	2	6	7
Portugal	7	3	1	3	8	7
Romania	2	0	2	0	2	2
Spain	6	2	2	2	13	11
Sweden	4	1	1	2	6	7
Switzerland	8	6	0	2	16	10
Turkey	1	0	0	1	2	4
Uruguay	2	0	0	2	2	10
U.S.A.	1	1	0	0	6	0
U.S.S.R.	2	0	0	2	0	3
Wales	90	55	20	15	229	72
Yugoslavia	5	1	4	0	8	6
Zaire	1	1	0	0	2	0
Totals	401	212	80	109	884	514

Borussia snatch title, attendances reach new record

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

THIS has been the most exciting and certainly the most prosperous season in the 14-year history of the West German Bundesliga. The championship race was not decided till the very last day of the campaign. And to top that the First Division recorded the highest ever aggregate attendances, which confirmed the interest in the high standard of play in this, technically the best league in the world.

In a dramatic finish Borussia Mönchengladbach won the title thanks to a 2-2 draw on the ground of their old rivals Bayern Munich. Meanwhile FC Schalke coming through with a late burst and Eintracht Brunswick were both pipped by just one point.

These two clubs have, however, qualified for the lucrative UEFA Cup, together with Eintracht Frankfurt and . . . Bayern Munich, who only scraped in thanks to the fact that Cologne, who were placed above them, won the DFB-Cup (albeit at the second attempt) and thus qualified for the Cup Winners contest, allowing Bayern to clinch the fourth and last spot in the UEFA tournament!

And so the triumph in the Bundesliga has smoothed over the disappointment Borussia Mönchengladbach felt by losing the European Cup final to Liverpool. The "glorious uncertainty" of football was once again starkly demonstrated: Here were Liverpool, the English champions again, but beaten in the FA Cup final and thus apparently downhearted — there was Borussia, fresh from being acclaimed on the same day as champions for the third year running.

But the psychological advantage meant nothing in Rome where Liverpool called the tune and won deservedly, as all German medias admitted against a Borussia team who gave easily the worst performance of the season.

Certainly, I have never seen Borussia so timid, cautious and frankly without the determination which is a hallmark of all German teams. Of course, Wimmer (who retired after 25 minutes), Simonsen (played with a painkilling injection) and Heynckes (out of condition after a long lay-off) were not fully fit and their participation was a gamble which just didn't come off. One wonders what would have happened if Bonhof's shot had gone in, instead of hitting the post, before Liverpool had scored . . .

Just a footnote to the match: The crowd of 57,000 at this European final was in fact a sell out, and not as mistakenly reported ". . . with the stadium at least 20,000 short of capacity, it seems the Italians stayed away."

Two-fold

In actual fact, the Italian Football Federation only printed 57,000 tickets, which were all sold. The reason for the limited allocation was two-fold: First the police, mindful of the reputation of British soccer "fans", wanted a reduced capacity for security reasons. But most important of all was the erection of tall hoardings behind both goals and alongside the pitch. These would have obstructed the view of spectators accommodated at or near pitch level. And these hoardings brought UEFA at least £250,000 (!) which more than compensated for lost revenue at the gate.

And so Hamburger SV were the only German winners in Europe, but to get two clubs into the finals was a fine achievement.

Both Hamburger SV and Borussia Mönchengladbach will of course again play in international competitions next season and they are already rebuilding and strengthening their sides.

Hamburg bought Kevin Keegan whose transfer and implications thereof I am reviewing in detail elsewhere in this magazine. In addition, HSV engaged the Yugoslav international defender Ivan Buljan

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NAME .....

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Kevin Keegan and Berti Vogts meet again . . . after their European Cup Final encounter they face each other at a hotel in Rio de Janeiro.

from Hajduk Split who cost only 550,000 Marks (£137,000).

To make room for two new foreigners, who they are allowed to field, Hamburg are releasing the veterans Ole Bjornmose 33 (Danish), and Hans Ettmayer 31 (Austrian), but will not collect very much for them. Fortunately, Georg Volkert (31) who has just celebrated an amazing recall to the national side after nine years (!), has re-signed for another season.

Borussia Monchengladbach are also in the process of clearing out. That old "war horse" Herbert Wimmer is retiring, at nearly 33, while Heynckes at 32 cannot go on much longer. Uli Stielike (he writes his name like that — without a "c"), has been granted his release to Real Madrid after all, but was struck off from the national squad! The DFB wanted to make an example of him to stop other internationals from negotiating with clubs abroad so close to the World Cup finals.

Borussia are now looking for strikers, but those abroad are too expensive and those in Germany are not easy to tempt away from their clubs. Bayern Munich have also been busy spending some of the fee received for Beckenbauer's move to New York Cosmos.

The brilliant Yugoslav schemer Branco Oblak (30) came from Schalke for only £112,000. And Beckenbauer's place in defence will be taken over by Wolfgang Rausch (30) the *libero* who joined Bayern from Kickers Offenbach for just £75,000.

Most German observers are agreed that these two players, who together cost about one third of the fee that Hamburg paid out for Keegan, are a much better bargain than the England forward. "English footballers are overrated and overpriced," declared Bayern's president Wilhelm Neudecker, who is rubbing his hands at the prospect of the redoubtable Oblak helping next season to re-establish Bayern as the leading club in the land.

The former European champions were also negotiating with the Swedish striker Benny Wendt (Tennis Borussia Berlin) and would have got him for £150,000. But finally Neudecker decided to give a professional contract to their young Turkish-born forward Erhan Oenal (19), thus achieving his quota of two permitted foreigners. Wendt incidentally went to Kaiserslautern.

Scorers

Cologne's victory in the final of the Cup came after a replay became necessary for the first time in history of the competition. The first encounter with Hertha Berlin ended 1-1 a.e.t., before a crowd of 55,000 at Hannover's Niedersachsen-Stadion with Dieter Müller and Horr the scorers.

The replay, two days later, brought Cologne their second cup win (after 1968), thanks to a solitary goal by their international centre forward, yes, Dieter Müller again. His header from a full length dive in mid-air was worthy of winning any match.

Hertha claimed they were robbed by the referee, who disallowed what they thought was a "perfectly" good goal by Beer. But for Cologne their 10,000 fans (for the first final there had been 20,000 who accompanied their side) and for manager Hennes Weisweiler it was a proud day. Only Cologne's stalwart Wolfgang Overath was disappointed: He played in the first final — his 762nd game for the club — but was omitted from the replay!

There was however consolation for the popular Overath, capped 81 times and now nearly 34 and finally retiring: His farewell and testimonial game between his club side and the complete World Cup winning team of 1974 drew a full house of 61,000 who brought him £75,000 into the kitty.

It was positively the last appearance together of the reigning world champion side which included those stars no longer wanting to play international soccer, like Gerd Müller, Grabowski and of course Overath himself, plus the latest "emigrant" Franz Beckenbauer who was easily the best man on the field. The "class" of 1974 beat Cologne by 4-1, their scorers being Overath, Breitner (penalty), an own goal and Hölzenbein.

The national side made a brilliant start to their South American tour by beating next year's World Cup hosts Argentina on their own ground by 3-1. Before a capacity crowd of 63,000 at the Boca Juniors stadium the Germans won thanks to two goals from centre forward Klaus Fischer and one by Hölzenbein.

It was the Germans' best display since that memorable triumph in 1972 in the European Championship. It earned rave notices in the South American Press and of course at home, raising hopes that the world title can be successfully defended.

For the second tour match manager Helmut Schön made five changes to give other members of the party a try against Uruguay and again the Germans won — 2-0 with goals by Flohe and D. Müller. I shall be reviewing their trip in detail in WORLD SOCCER next month.

LIFE IN THE HILLS

by Peter Bills

Dominique Rocheteau with his blac Volkswagen.

FARM WORKERS wave from the side of the road; other cars pull out of the way as the black Volkswagen roars up the windy mountain roads. Monsieur Dominique Rocheteau is on his way home from work.

It's commuting with a difference when you travel home, Rocheteau style. Dazzling pace and skills on the football fields; dazzling driving and a hard man to follow on the mountain roads near his hideaway in the hills.

For this is the life of seclusion that Rocheteau leads by both choice and necessity. Choice because he loves the quiet sunny hills far outside grim St. Etienne, the town of industry and steel works. Necessity because the brightest star and sex symbol in French football today is chased wherever he goes by fans and female admirers alike.

Rocheteau retreats to the hills and the quiet house of simple pretensions in which he lives with his younger brother and two amiable dogs. "It's the perfect place for me," promises Rocheteau as he leaps into his car after another training session with the famous 'Greens'.

"And now I show you. You see only if you can follow at the cracking pace Rocheteau sets around the hairpin bends of the mountain roads.

The road snakes its way past scenery which changes from smoke billowing chimneys and warehouses to tiny villages in the hills and sloping fields of green. Soon, Rocheteau's powerful motor swings sharply up a rocky track, turns immediately right and round the corner into the drive of a small peasant-style cottage. Ahead of us, perhaps 25 miles of hills lie peacefully in the late afternoon sun. It all seems far removed from the life of a football super-star of the 1970s.

But super-star Rocheteau undoubtedly is. At 22, he is one of the major reasons why French football is on the verge of an anticipated revival of no small degree after years in the footballing wilderness. The silky smooth skills which have made Rocheteau famous throughout Europe have also helped lift his club towards the pinnacle of European achievement.

Certainly, Bayern's three European Cups may seem in another world to some but St. Etienne's performance in reaching the semi-finals, final and quarter-finals of the mighty European Cup in three consecutive seasons, is one of outstanding success. Before St. Etienne forced their way on to the European football map, a gap of ridiculous proportions filled the football map from Madrid to Munich, Belgium and Holland.

Sadly, that great run is now at an end — albeit, a temporary one in all probability. Nantes have taken the French League Championship title this year, depriving St. Etienne a fourth consecutive title. But for Rocheteau, life goes on crucially towards a cross-roads of his career.

Seven minutes of one match never turned a back-street school hero into a European champion, but Rocheteau came near to achieving such a feat at Glasgow last June. St. Etienne, cruelly deprived of the European Cup by the resilience of the canny Germans from Bayern and the width of the Hampden woodwork, could use Rocheteau's skills only for the last seven minutes, as substitute. A long-standing ankle injury was the reason he wore the No. 12 shirt that night — but in those seven minutes, he did enough to dominate most of the ensuing headlines.

Concentrate

Now, however, as Rocheteau admits, he must put aside the memories of seven minutes at Glasgow and concentrate on guiding the future career of the enormously talented young man. And Rocheteau must first overcome the problem all players of his talent and build encounter along the road to total success.

"I must learn to live with the injuries," he says. "But also I must become stronger to cope with them. This season, I had three ankle injuries and spent a month off the field each time. That is something I must conquer.

"I think it is hard for me to talk of my progress in the last year. It has been a difficult year for me but I do feel I am now getting to a better level all-round. I have had so many injuries it has made it hard for me. But I believe I will adapt to the hard life in Frenc football.

"Of course, I have much kicking to put u with in the French League. But I accept th better now than I used to. I enjoyed playing the European Cup because it was so mu cleaner than French football. Teams Europe or most of the ones we have me seem to play with a better spirit.

"But I did think some of the tackl Liverpool made were not good. I will not s who I mean in the Liverpool side but tho tackles were bad. Of course, we were ve disappointed to lose to Liverpool. We at S Etienne had set our hearts on reaching th final once more and making up for o disappointment against Bayern last year.

"The difference between the two sides w probably Piazza in the second leg at Anfiel If he had played, I think we would have wo But Liverpool do not do so well just o strength alone. They have some qualiti which cannot be beaten."

When trainer Robert Herbin isn't bringi St. Etienne back for training at all hours of th day, Rocheteau slips away to his quiet retrea "But maybe I will move from here in a fe months time," he says, sadly. "When I fir came here, this was the only cottage in th area. Now, others have been built close by

"Only a very few supporters can find me u here. It is a hard place to find. But being s well known in this area means I cannot go o at all to the towns, because everyone seems t know me. So I stay in my cottage listening t music, playing the guitar, and watchin television.

"Sometimes, I go to the local inn for th evening with my friends. But I cannot g where I want to because of supporters."

Maybe it is all too easy to see the obvio comparison between Rocheteau and Georg Best in his early days. But talking to th French star doesn't persuade you that he wi commit soccer suicide as Best did.

Rocheteau says simply: "I want to be great footballer and I want to be happy, in m private life. I will work at both things to mak sure they come true."

Few clear favourites emerging

COLIN JOSE From North America

A familiar pattern is emerging in the North American Soccer League once again this season, one of inconsistency. So far with seven weeks of the season gone there are no dominant teams and a club that shows signs of producing one quickly seems to get its hopes dashed as they hit a slump.

With four divisions of equal standing and a highly complicated interlocking schedule it makes for tight divisional races with the majority of teams in contention right up to the final games. This of course is designed to maintain interest among the fans right up to the end of the season, but it also means that a team can hit a hot streak in the final weeks and come from nowhere to win the championship.

At the present time Toronto still seems to be the team to beat in the Northern Division which is considered to be the weakest division. The Metros-Croatia, champions last year, have won four games and lost four games with two of those losses coming via the new NASL shootout method. Still up to their last game Toronto has looked anything but champions as they struggled to overcome the loss of a number of players.

Then suddenly everything clicked and they hammered Tampa Bay 4-0 and up to that time Tampa had the best record in the league. Toronto's improvement coincides with the return of Gene Strenicer to midfield and the insertion of Canadian international Peter Roe into the line up, plus some outstanding wing play for Dinko Zutelija.

Conceded

St. Louis seem the most likely to provide the main challenge to Toronto while Chicago after a bad start have rebounded somewhat in the past week winning two games one of them against Tampa. Rochester have a strong defence but are not producing enough goals, while Connecticut are at the foot without a win in seven games having scored just four goals and conceded 21. It is interesting to note that none of the teams in the Northern Division have won more games than they have lost at this stage.

In the Eastern Division Tampa Bay looked like setting the league on fire up until the past weekend when they lost 4-3 to Chicago in the Windy City on Friday and were taken apart by Toronto on the Sunday. Injuries to key players like Mark Lindsay, Len Glover and Arsene Auguste haven't helped their cause and back to back away games within a short period of time have proved the undoing of other teams before them.

Derek Smethurst is once again among the goals with Rodney Marsh playing well in midfield alongside Lindsay and Glover, while South African winger Steve Wegerle is proving effective.

New York in second place here have won five games and lost four and have yet to produce the form capable of winning the championship. Pele got a hat trick in the 3-0 win over Fort Lauderdale all of them past his old adversary Gordon Banks. It will be interesting to see if Franz Beckenbauer can effect the transformation needed to carry the Cosmos to the championship.

Fort Lauderdale after a most encouraging start have slipped a little. They have a better won-lost record than the Cosmos but having played two games less trail the New York club by only five points.

The Washington Diplomats bring up the rear yet have still won more games than they have lost and are tied on points with Fort Lauderdale. In contention most of last year the Diplomats don't appear to have what it takes to overhaul the leaders this time.

So far the surprise teams of the year has proved to be the Las Vegas Quicksilver who currently lead the Southern Division over the Dallas Tornado. Eusebio, has not been playing regularly and in eight games they have scored just 11 goals, but the tale here is in defence where only five goals have been conceded.

I may well have caught them on a bad day but I cannot say that I was at all impressed with this team and find their success just a little puzzling. They have American Alan Meyer in goal, but the key figure is former Benfica centre back Humberto. In midfield the club have another ex Benfica player in Toni and of course Wolfgang Suhnholz who was a member of the Toronto team that won last years championship.

Challenge

Dallas and Los Angeles occupy second and third place respectively having fallen off from their fine starts. For Dallas it is encouraging to see Kyle Rote once again amongst the goals, while at Los Angeles George Best has yet to show up despite the fact that the club announced his signing months ago.

San Jose in fourth spot and still drawing capacity crowds are erratic, and a little more consistency could see them produce a serious challenge to the top three for as it is they are within easy distance under the NASL points system.

Team Hawaii are having their troubles both off the field and on and they bring up the rear. Attendances in Honolulu have been poor to date and far from what is needed to support an NASL franchise. An improvement on the field might help and as yet they have not had the benefit of the British players they had signed earlier.

In the always interesting Western Division it is the Minnesota Kicks, last year's beaten finalists, who look to be about to repeat as divisional champions even this early in the season. The Kicks have won six games and lost two with their two losses coming early before their full complement of English players had arrived. Alan Willey is once again among the goals here just as he was last season and he got a hat trick in his opening game.

Portland, 14 points back are the closest to the Kicks and the only club looking likely to produce a serious challenge at this point. Coming off a poor season last season the Timbers are stronger this year with a number of players who helped them to the NASL final in 1975 returning.

Resigned

Canadian national team coach Eckhard Krautzun has resigned as coach of the Vancouver Whitecaps, but retains his job with Canada. His place has been taken by another German Holgar Osiek who is acting as player-coach. The Whitecaps are certainly not doing as well as expected and have slumped to a 3-5 won lost record, while Seattle always in the thick of the battle in recent years are even worse off having won just two of seven games.

Attendances overall are encouraging although although there are a few black spots.

Average attendance for opening day for each club throughout the league this year was 14,733 up 16 PER CENT from the average of 1976 which was 12,375. The Minnesota Kicks broke the NASL record for an opening day crowd with 35,966 for the visit of Hawaii.

Clubs not doing as well as might have been hoped are Connecticut, Hawaii, Chicago and Toronto. Connecticut dipped to a low of 1,520 for the visit of Tampa Bay, while Chicago only had 2,015 when Washington came to town. Hawaii are slipping from an average of around 5,000 early on to just 3,137 for their game with Dallas, while the enigmatic Toronto situation continues with two crowds topping the 7,000 mark and a slip to 2,165 sandwiched in between.

UEFA DO A WOR

HARD TO believe, in these days when multi-national corporations and world organisations of one sort or another seem to have been in existence for ages, that UEFA is just 23 years old.

The Union of European Football Associations was founded by 25 national associations during the 1954 World Cup Finals in Switzerland. Now, with the recent addition of Liechtenstein, the number of members is up to 34.

The objectives are fairly straightforward: To deal with all questions concerning European soccer, protect their members' interests and promote the game in Europe regardless of religion, race or politics.

UEFA are the initial letters bandied about all too frequently without much thought usually being given to what they represent. In fact they represent 211,000 clubs, 403,000 teams, 15 million players and 260,000 referees.

That makes it the biggest continental confederation in FIFA, yet the FIFA one-country one-vote system places the basic wealth of the game (which is in Europe) ever more at the mercy of the Third World.

UEFA's decisions are taken by the biennial congress — or rather, that is where the rubber-stamping takes place. The congress elects a president and ten members to the executive committee, out of which is named a five-member emergency committee. Other central committees include the control and disciplinary committee and the Board of Appeal.

After that it's down to the various specialist committees drawn from the ranks of all the member associations. These committees deal with most o the various general questions which are bound to tax any organising authority.

But UEFA also has the power to study the drop in match attendances violence on the terraces, the influence of television and the effects o international law. There are regula conferences for the presidents and general secretaries of the member associations, and special courses fo referees and national team coaches.

But to the man in the street, none o this technical work is of much interest.

Where his interest in soccer crosses UEFA's path is in relation to the big

by Keir Radnedge

UEFA want to keep future World Cup Finals restricted to 16 teams, despite pressure from FIFA president Joao Havelange's election backers of three years ago.

The European 'party line' was spelled out by Dr Artemio Franchi, president of the European Union of Football Associations, at a Press conference on the morning of the Champions' Cup Final in Rome.

Franchi admitted that "if there is an increase to 20 or 24 in the number of finalists, there would probably be more of our European teams. There might not be so many situations as in 1974, for example, when England failed to qualify; or now, when England or Italy will not go to Argentina."

But he insisted: "If we increase the number of teams, particularly those from other continents, this would create a lower standard and would lower interest.

"We don't think it would improve the World Cup. In fact it would just serve to create more problems.

"We appreciate that this means that each four years we sacrifice some of our best teams. But we must learn to live with this."

But that UEFA will be pushing for change in the structure of world football, Franchi left no-one in doubt.

With UEFA just over 20 years old, he felt it should now "become the driving force behind a reorganisation of European football.

"Bearing in mind the paramount importance European football has for the game throughout the world, this would mean in effect a reorganisation of football at world level."

What that really meant, Franchi did not elaborate. Certainly it involves the problems posed by television, sponsorship, advertising, doping, the Treaty of Rome, and various other headings.

But these are mere technicalities, not issues of major principle deciding whether soccer will progress or stagnate.

The immediate problem worrying many of UEFA's members is whether the World Cup Finals go ahead in Argentina next year.

Franchi disturbed the gentle slumbers of a large number of correspondents when he said: "Argentina is still a problem. It is impossible to make any forecasts — even just 12 months ahead."

But once again he left his listeners in mid air as he qualified the assertion by explaining that with the world's current economic problems, he would not like to make forecasts for whatever country in which it was proposed to stage the world's premier soccer tournament.

Franchi understood from the West Germans, Hermann Neuberger and Hermann Joch — key figures in 1974 — that in terms of stadia, the Argentines were well up to time in construction. That wasn't yet the case, however, as regards Press, telex and TV facilities and communications.

Security might be a problem, but that, thought Franchi, also applied anywhere.

He continued: "The Argentine government is much involved in the organisation and has taken direct responsibility for the greater part of the technical and organisational problems.

"There is nothing to suggest there are insurmountable obstacles to the finals going ahead as planned."

On other matters Franchi considered:

Foreign players: The number of foreign players being fielded by clubs in European tournaments was a matter which should be studied.

Treaty of Rome: At the moment poses more theoretical than practical problems.

Doping: A total ban is in force, but there is no way to police it. UEFA would need a staff of health inspectors. There were some countries where dope tests were regularly carried out, but the problem was one of organisation, rather than cash.

But on one subject Franchi did lead with his chin. This was when he explained at length how UEFA had to be careful not to concede any of its rights to advertisers and this was why adverts on players' shirts were forbidden in European competitive matches.

How then, a colleague challenged him, can you justify closing off a couple of thousand seats in the Olympic Stadium in Rome to accommodate extra advertisement hoardings?

Franchi's reply was a lengthy one, but it wasn't an answer. And the issue could have blown up in his face but for the apathy of his countrymen. After Liverpool's fans and those of Borussia Moenchengladbach had taken their places in the Stadio Olimpico there were still 20,000 empty places which the Italians themselves couldn't be bothered to take up.

If UEFA had wished, they could have squeezed in even more adverts!

Franchi was not the only speaker in Rome. UEFA's general secretary, Hans Bangerter, had his say too on a few of the problems facing UEFA in the next few years.

The one concerned the finals of the European championship, which will take place next time with eight teams competing in a host country, rather than four as at present.

UEFA also want to upgrade the amateur national teams, being well aware that 98 per cent of the 15 million footballers in Europe are in fact still amateurs.

Bangerter also concerned himself with the problems of television coordination, particularly bearing in mind that in central Europe it is possible to pick up television signals — and watch football matches — sent out in a number of neighbouring countries.

In the end it all comes down to organisation and that raises the question of what kind of body UEFA is. Is it merely a nuts-and-bolts authority, concerned merely with fixing convenient dates and draws for various competitions? Or is it a policy-making body with a mind of its own?

Perhaps the reason there has been so much controversy about where UEFA stands or falls on the issue of corruption and referees is that it as yet lacks the confidence that it is taken seriously everywhere.

Franchi, maybe, had this in mind when he made those hints about what the future holds for the organisation over which he presides.

We'll soon see.

THWHILE JOB

European competitions. The most important is the European championship, begun as the European Nations' Cup in 1958-60, but the greatest prestige attaches to the European Cup for Champion Clubs.

And one wonders where UEFA would have been without it — since it was thanks to the organisers of the Champions' Cup that UEFA gained one of its first and major raisons d'etre.

It was in the spring of 1955 that representatives of a dozen or so of Europe's most progressive clubs met under the aegis of the Paris sports daily, *L'Equipe*, to draw up a format for a club tournament. The only drawback was the problem of proper organisation — and this is where UEFA actually found its first useful role.

Later came the Cup-winners' Cup, the UEFA youth tournament, the amateur championship, the under-23 competition, now the under-21 competition, and — among the last — the UEFA Cup, formerly run as the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup.

Recreation

Now we have the Super-Cup as well.

All in all many people would say, there are too many tournaments, too much competitive football destroying the essence of recreation which the game was originally organised to create.

Nevertheless, we have these contests now, like it or not, and organising them requires a lot of effort. So the UEFA executive committee is assisted by about 100 members in various committees, some 200 international referees, and 130 national match observers, most of whom are former international referees.

The administration is in the hands of a general secretariat which moved from Paris to Berne in 1960, and it is from Berne that refereeing appointments are made, courses convened, reports filed, Press releases issued in English, French and German.

That is UEFA at work. Too unwieldy? That's one criticism. Too much of a private club? That's another. Doing a good, worthwhile job? I think so.

Sweden through?

SWEDEN virtually assured their place in Argentina by beating Switzerland 2-1 in Stockholm in group six.

The Swedes' reserves warmed up with a 1-0 win against Norway in Gothenburg, while the Swiss actually provided new manager Roger Vonlanthen with his first win in beating European champions Czechoslovakia 1-0 in Basle as they prepared for Stockholm.

Teams:

Switzerland. — Burgener — Brechbuehl, Chapuisat, Bizzini, Trinchero — Barberis, Suiser, Botteron, Demarmels — Elsener (K. Muller 69), Risi (Maradan 82).

Czechoslovakia. — Michalik — Dobias, Dvorak, Pivarnik (Paurik h-t), Geogh — Kozak, Pollak, Panenka (Gajdusek h-t) — Masny, Nehoda, Petras (Stemmbacher 71).

The Czechs staggered into the game having lost 3-0 to Wales in the World Cup and then 2-0 to Hungary in a friendly. They finished no better this time. Before a meagre 8,000 crowd Kudi Muller, coming on as substitute for Rudi Elsener, hit the only goal in the 70th minute.

It was good for the Swiss, but in Stockholm, before 43,000, they never even provided a threat to Ronnie Hellstroem, let alone came anywhere near scoring until 10 minutes from the end, when Elsener, their best player, gave Peter Risi a goal.

However in the 10 minutes before that Sjoeberg (70) and Boerjesson (77) had scored twice for Sweden, and at the end of a lifeless game, that was that.

Teams:

Sweden. — Hellstroem — Bjorn Andersson (M. Andersson 63), Nordqvist, Roy Andersson, Borg — Boerjesson, Larsson, Augustsson, Linderoth — Sjoeberg, Wendt.

Switzerland. — Burgener — Brechbuehl, Chapuisat, Bizzini, Trinchero (van Wattburg h-t). — Barberis, Botteron, Demarmels, Suiser (Muller 70) — Elsener, Risi.

While these two were playing for Sweden's right to go on to Argentina, their warm-up opponents were facing more problems.

The Czechs faced Austria in Ostrava, before 20,000 and, after three defeats in a row, salvaged a 0-0 draw. Manager Vaclav Jezek dropped Ivan Pivarnik, Marian Masny, Ladislav Petras and Antonin Panenka in the attempt to rebuild and though the Czechs twice hit the woodwork, the best chance fell to the Austrians.

Ten minutes from time Hans Krankl sent Pirkner through, but he snapped his shot from close range over the bar.

Czechoslovakia. — Michalik — Svoboda, Samek, Dvorak, Geogh — Pollak, Kozak, Gajdusek — Vizek, Nehoda, Mraz.

Austria. — Koncilia — R. Sara, Obermayer, Pezzy, Breitenberger — Oberhofer, Prohaska, Meister, Stering — Zanon, Krankl.

Action from the World Cup match between Sweden and Switzerland which Sweden won 2-1.

Norway, having lost to Sweden, then went down at home 2-0 to Denmark in a match to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Norwegian FA. King Olav, now 73, was among the 8,742 crowd for a game in which Norway had most of the play, but the Danes got the goals.

After 10 minutes Fleming Jensen made it 1-0, and Brugge-bound Jan Soerensen the second three minutes after half-time. After that it was down to the brilliance of goalkeeper Birger Jensen to keep Norway at bay.

WORLD CUP REVIEW

NEWS FROM HUNGARY by LESLIE VERNO

Vasas Budapest deserve their title victory

VASAS BUDAPEST clinched the Hungarian Championship in the penultimate round of the campaign with a slightly tremulous victory at Gyor against Raba. But, overall, their triumph, the sixth title win in the club's history, and the first since 1966, when the likes of Kalman Meszoly and Janos Farkas played for them, was fully deserved.

During the 'spring' half of the season, they turned a four-points deficit into a three points lead over second placed Dozsa, and their record reads P17, W14, D2, L1!

The Claret and Blue champs scored exactly 100 goals, Bela Varadi claiming the lion's share with 36, and midfielder, Istvan Gass on 16. While in Hungary at present, the national team play the most 'modern' football, Vasas are the nearest to it.

Under the vastly experienced coach, Rodolf Illovszky, they also adapted a style as closely resembling to the Dutch patented total-football as possible, with players of lesser skill and perception. But with attack-conscious full-backs, Torok and Kantor, young and mobile central defenders, Komjati and Hegedus, Vasas have an enterprising springboard for launching unexpected raids from various strategic points.

Sandor Muller, who wasted years of his career through lack of application (a phrase which covers such minor and major sins as ignoring his coach's instructions, and night-clubbing on the eve of League matches), came to his senses, and had a tremendous season, culmination in scoring the winning goal at Gyor.

Alongside him, the beaver-like Zombori and the constructive Gass are excellent cogs in a fluently coherent 'machine'. One cannot criticise a forward-line which scores and creates space for others to score one hundred goals. But against international opposition next year in the European Cup, Izso must be more enterprising. Kovacs more positive inside the 'meat-grinder' of the opposing penalty box, and the mercurial Varadi should learn to 'concentrate' for the full 90 minutes.

Sandor Muller says: "We won the title by beating our main rivals convincingly, and by forcing our own style on the opposition. 'Confidence' is half the battle in football, and the favourable results in the 'derby' games against Dozsa and Fradi, infused us with a feeling of supreme self-belief."

Dozsa had a mediocre season, dropping points even against relegation candidates — their youngsters are clearly not in the same class as veterans, Zambo, Bene, Dunai were in their heyday. Twenty points in 17 games was the meagre haul of Ferencvaros — good enough for a bronze medal position, but a poor showing for a team which were involved in a major European Final two years ago, and won the Championship last term.

Honved came fourth (and will probably qualify for the UEFA Cup, if one of the top three wins the domestic Cup), and Halad fifth place finished highest of the provi clubs. Salgotarjan, not so long ago qui force in Hungarian football, are relega together with newcomers, Dorog, the ye team without a hope of survival from the s Varadi (36) topped the goalscoring ch with Fazekas (Dozsa), and Kozma (Hon joint second on 21. Fekete (Dozsa), Ny (Ferencvaros) and Gass (Vasas) registere goals each.

To conclude a happy story, I duty-bound to record that Hungary did b Greece — quite comfortably — 3-0, finished on top of the world Cup Europ Group 9. Now they will face wooden-spoonists of the South Ameri mini-League of Brazil, Peru and Bolivia two-legged play-off matches for a place Argentina. But that's a problem for n season — it is sufficient now to congratul F.A. boss Istvan Kutas, national te manager Lajos Baroti, and of course, the l in the traditional cherry-red jerseys for a extremely well done. The future, once aga looks bright and hopeful. . . .

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NANTES WIN FOURTH TITLE

FRENCH champions Nantes have had a reputation for being the most attractive side to watch in the First Division in recent years. This season they also managed to win the title for the second time since 1973 and overall their fourth such honour.

For coach Jean Vincent in his first season in control it was a fine achievement and when you consider that players of the calibre of Robert Gadocha who was Poland's World Cup winger of 1974 and the France-Greek Yves Triantafilos had to be content with playing in the second team most of the season, the potential is impressive.

In fact but for St. Etienne being responsible for clouding two other possible achievements, it was a happy 1976-77 for Nantes essentially a young side. St. Etienne defeated them in the Cup semi-final and also for the reserves title in the Third Division.

However for a club which only saw the light of day during the dark hours of wartime, Nantes have gradually become something of a force with which to be reckoned.

Founded in 1943 when regional football was still somehow being played, Nantes turned professional in 1945 and during that season played in Group North of the Second Division. Finishing fifth in the 14 team League was also a creditable performance.

The following season when the Second Division embraced all clubs under one League, Nantes was eighth out of 22. In 1947-48 they slipped to 11th in the 20 club division but remained a middle of the table outfit the next season when ninth out of 19.

In 1949-50 they slumped badly and could finish no higher than second from bottom. They picked up to 10th out of 17 the next term and in 1951-52 reached their highest point at the time by taking fourth place. But in the next two terms they were sixth and ninth respectively and tenth in 1954-55 apparently unable to alter the conviction that they were permanent Second Division material.

Worse followed because in 1955-56 they fell to 17th out of 20 clubs, before finishing 13th, 13th, 14th, eighth and 11th in subsequent years. But 1961-62 brought a lift to sixth and the next season produced an excellent performance when Nantes came second to St. Etienne and won promotion to the First Division.

In 1963-64 their first ever in the top flight, Nantes were eighth and if you compare it to St. Etienne who won the championship perhaps it was not an outstanding performance but in 1964-65 it was Nantes who were champions and St. Etienne seventh.

The regular side that season was: Eon; Bout, Le Chenadec, Budzinski, Jort, Suaudeau, Simon, Blanchet, Gondet, Muller, Guillot. Jacky Simon was the top scorer in the First Division with 24 goals, too.

Simon along with Bernard Blanchet, Robert Budzinski and Philippe Gondet all reached double figures in international appearances around this era.

In 1965-66 Nantes even succeeded in surpassing this achievement because after the 43 points from 34 games of the previous term, Nantes managed with four more games to retain the title with 60 points and a seven points to spare margin compared with only two in 1964-65.

Gondet scored 36 of the 84 goals registered. Chief changes in the side were at full-back where Grabowski and De Michele took over and on the left flank in attack where Toure, Prou or Magny shared duties.

The Nantes trainer during these highly successful seasons was Jose Arribas who had joined the club in 1959 after spells in charge of Saint Malo and Noyen-sur-Sarthe. A former midfield player himself he had succeeded in building up a fine team spirit among his players and in midfield he had in Claude 'Coco' Suaudeau and Argentinian Ramon Muller, two outstanding technicians.

The attack responded well especially in 1965-66 and in addition to Gondet's haul, Simon scored 14 times and Blanchet 10.

Behind a solid defence, too, goalkeeper Daniel Eon distinguished himself on many occasions with style and safety.

Nantes also reached the Cup Final for the first time in their history that season but Strasbourg robbed them of a double by beating them 1-0.

The club made a commendable effort to retain the title for a third successive season in 1966-67 but ultimately bowed to St. Etienne, champions four points ahead of Nantes who were runners-up.

Three disappointing seasons in which Nantes finished seventh, tenth and tenth again then followed but in 1970-71 a resurgence brought them back to third place. Blanchet was still active and finished as the club's leading marksman with 15 goals. But St. Etienne had also slaughtered Nantes 5-0 in the Cup Final in 1970.

The following 1971-72 term it was back to seventh again with Argentinian Angel Marcos the leading marksman with 20 goals.

For the next term apart from Blanchet there was only full-back Gaby De Michele remaining of the previous championship teams, now respectively 29 and 31 years old. But the ending was a successful one as Nantes won the title with five points to spare.

De Michele proved to be one of the three ever present players in the side that season, the others being midfield player Henri Michel and full-back Jean-Claude Osman.

Blanchet missed only three games himself, yet again there was a tinge of disappointment as the club went for the League and Cup double, again only to find themselves beaten in the final by Lyon.

In 1973-74 Nantes made a courageous attempt to keep the title but again it was St. Etienne who proved the masters and left the champions in second place. Two seasons ago Nantes were fifth and in 1975-76 came a respectable fourth.

During the recently completed season apart from one bad patch when they went four matches without a win and took only three points, Nantes looked largely convincing as potential champions. In their last 12 matches they were undefeated and dropped only two points in the process. Their lead was a colossal nine points over Lens.

Michel and Loic Amisse were the only two ever present players among 22 called upon.

International honours fell to many of the side. Goalkeeper Jean-Paul Bertrand-Demanes (25) originally capped in 1974 missed only four League games. His deputy Jean-Marc Desrousseaux (20) won Under-21 honours during the season.

Full-backs Maxime Bossis (22) and Thierry Tusseau (19) both won full caps. Bossis overcame a broken leg during the season to regain his first team place and Tusseau also won Under-21 recognition.

Top scorer Omar Sahnoun (21) of Algerian extraction won two full caps and hit 15 goals in the League. Four other players reached double figures in goalscoring — centre-forward Eric Pecout with 12 goals, Michel, Bruno Baronchelli and Amisse with 11 each.

The gifted Michel (29) was recalled to the French squad after a year's absence for the tour of South America after winning 47 caps. Pecout a member of the 1976 Olympic squad won Under-21 honours during the season and is also only aged 21.

Baronchelli (20) a right-wing striker who with colleagues Amisse and Pecout had appeared in the last Olympic team, served his military service stint and won a full cap to go with Under-21 outings against Switzerland.

The locally born Amisse (22) won his first full cap against West Germany. Others capped during the season were centre-back Patrice Rio (29) the stopper who formed a useful partnership with Argentinian World Cup 1974 player Hugo Bargas (30).

Others who played a prominent role in the side were right-back Raynald Denoueix (29), Georges Van Straelen (20) in midfield along with Gilles Rampillon (23) the latter being a full international, too, and Oscar Muller (19) the son of the club's Argentinian midfield player of the 1960s. Also Osman (30) despite a serious eye injury sustained a couple of seasons ago, also deserves mention in the championship success.

Just how well Nantes will fare in Europe remains a mystery. St. Etienne needed several attempts before they managed to reach a European Cup Final, but coach Vincent (45) a winner of 45 caps himself and associated with Reims as a left-winger in their European Cup glory might work a little magic for them.

Jack Rollin spotlights the French champions

ZARAGOZA RELEGATED

WITH THE exception of Malaga, long since condemned, the relegation dog-fight in Spain went right to the last couple of games — in the worst atmosphere for years.

Recriminations against referees, commonplace all season, built up to a bitter crescendo and allegations of bribery against the safer teams were legion.

There was also the added complication of a pitch invasion when Valencia's home match with struggling Zaragoza was interrupted five minutes from time after referee Sanchez Rios awarded the visitors — one-goal down — a remarkable penalty.

This was the penultimate game of the season and Zaragoza looked virtually dead when their forward Juanjo fell after being tackled and robbed of the ball by Valencia defender Jose Antonio Carrete. It looked perfectly innocent, but Rios immediately pointed to the spot. For five minutes there was a hail of missiles and cushions, then the fans started swarming onto the pitch. Officials and players ran for safety, two dozen fans suffered minor injuries, and the game was abandoned.

The league ordered that those last five minutes — as is the custom in Spain in such circumstances — be played out behind closed doors at Madrid's Chamartin. This time Sanchez Rios was absent, suspended for two months ostensibly because of his comments afterwards but in point of fact as punishment for what television showed was a badly mistaken decision. Balsa Ron was the referee.

The five minute finale began with the penalty — converted by Pepe Gonzalez to bring the strugglers a welcome point. But would it be enough to help save Zaragoza?

The last weekend of the season found the league's lower feaches thus:

Burgos	30 points
Santander	29
Zaragoza	28
Celta de Vigo	29
Malaga	18

Zaragoza were at home to Celta(!) with Santander away to Salamanca who, though only just a few places higher up the table, had lost only twice at home all season and were not expected to do so again.

If Santander could win, the result of the Zaragoza-Celta game wouldn't matter — both would be down. And, incredibly, it was Santander who *did* win in the most controversial circumstances, thanks to an own goal from Salamanca's normally reliable Argentine defender, Rezza, who cut out a cross from Jimenez and rolled the ball beyond his own goalkeeper. Camus (Santander) and Victor (Salamanca) were sent off in the second half, but there were no more goals.

Zaragoza, hearing of all this after beating Celta with another goal from Pepe Gonzalez, were wild. Skipper Jose Luis Violeta, while virtually admitting that Zaragoza had contributed to the Salamanca win bonus pool (which is allowed in Spain) accused them of accepting "better offers".

And when it later came out that a series of telephone calls between several of the players of the two teams had taken place on the night before the game there was even more reason why the FEF should have launched inquiry.

Instead . . . silence. And Malaga, Celta a Zaragoza go down — their places to be tak by Gijon, Rayo and Cadiz.

French gates up

ATTENDANCES rose in France las season. Aggregate crowds in the Firs Division were 4,302,975 representing an increase of 140,000 on the previous season. Average attendance was 11,323. Paris St. Germain were the best supported club with 425,788 watching their 19 home games. Lens came next with 343,000 followed by champions Nantes 341,000 and Cup winners St Etienne getting 334,000.

A WELL-KNOWN World Cup name — Eusebio — featured among the scorers recently in the African qualifiers. But it wasn't the Black Panther back for Portugal, but a youngster, Ismael Eusebio, scoring the only goal for Guinea in their 1-0 win in Daker against Tunisia.

continued from page 32

after infection following a leg injury nearly cost his life.

That night Atletico were at home to Sevilla in the second leg of a Cup tie, hoping to reverse the 0-2 first leg scoreline and go on into the quarter finals. Some hopes! Though Atletico dominated a rough game from start to finish, forcing 22 corners to Sevilla's two (!) they had only one goal to show for it at the end, scored after 56 minutes by Ayala, with a header from Jose Luis Capon's cross.

On top of that three players were sent off in the second half by referee Juan Maria Elizondo — Sevilla's Juen and Blanco and Atletico's Robi — and six minutes from the end, when Atletico needed to throw everyone forward, Reina was knocked unconscious in a goalmouth scramble. Atletico had already brought on their two substitutes, so Ramon Heredia had to go in goal and the match petered out with the fans lamenting Cano's bad luck just before half-time when his shot rebounded off the bar.

Still Sevilla's goalkeeper, the man they call Super-Paco, had earned his fortune with a string of excellent saves.

At least Atletico were in good company — Valencia went out the same night to Hercules, and Las Palmas surprisingly to Zaragoza.

And so to the last-but-one league matches. Twice before Atletico and Real had met with championships depending on the result. In 1947 Madrid beat Atletico in their own Metropolitano to ruin their chances and in 1972 Atletico beat Madrid 4-1 in the penultimate game, but Madrid still won the league by beating Sevilla the following week.

This time the teams were:

Real Madrid — Miguel Angel — Uria (Rubinan 83), Benito, Pirri, Camacho — Breitner, del Bosque, Vitoria (Santillana 73) — Aguilar, Jensen, Roberto Martinez.

Atletico. — Pacheco — Marcelino, Benegas, Luis Perez, Capon — Robi (Eusebio 81), Leal, Alberto — Ayala, Cano, Bermejo (Salcedo 70).

This was Paul Breitner's last league match in Chamartin before his return to West Germany, but he could hardly have made less of an impact on the game. Madrid went a goal down after 41 minutes when Cano pushed in a rebound over the body of Miguel Angel, but Roberto Martinez equalised 20 minutes from time.

The 120,000 crowd paid £140,000 to see the game, and many were on their way home before news came of the vital Elche-Barcelona game . . . which had finished in a 0-0 draw and meant Atletico could not now be caught.

"We just didn't have the luck we needed," said Barcelona's Michels. Cruyff had suffered a recurrence of an old leg injury and had to be substituted at half-time. Without him CFB never looked like getting a goal.

They were without him again in midweek, since no foreigners are allowed in the Cup, and Barcelona faced Celta in Nou Camp. Th first leg had finished in a 1-1 draw and whe Celta coach Carmelo Cedrun announced h would field a team of reserves because h needed his first team men for the followin Sunday's vital relegation clash, it seemed mere formality.

The CFB players thought so too. The dominated for 85 minutes, squandered te good chances and — to everyone's astonish ment — lost 2-1!

And that was despite the fact that Barcelon took this chance to give Bernardo Migueli first run-out after his knee ligament injury?

If that was a disappointment for Barcelona they will be in the UEFA Cup next season and it was nothing like the disappointmen Atletico suffered when they went out againsi Valencia, hoping to round off their seaso with a big win in front of their own fans Valencia were without Johnny Rep and Car los Diarte, but they had Mario Kempes i strident form. He scored two of the goals i Valencia's 3-2 win to take his total for his firs season in Spain to 24 and just pip Espanol' Maranon for the Trofeo Pichichi for th league's top scorer.

But seventh place isn't good enough to tak Valencia into Europe next season — a seaso in which Atletico, after their fourth leagu win in 12 years, will be hoping to make up fo that replay defeat in the 1974 Champions Cup Final.

Irish hopes crumbling

IRISH hopes of a team in the World Cup Finals for the first time since 1958 were ruined by two remarkable defeats.

In group five The Republic of Ireland lost 2-1 to Bulgaria in Sofia in a match which saw four players sent off. Then, in Reykjavik, Northern Ireland went down 1-0 to Iceland in group four to sink to the bottom of the table.

To be fair, Northern Ireland's chances of going through from a group which also included Holland and Belgium, were minimal. But the Republic suffered a major setback by losing in Sofia before a 65,000 crowd.

Plenty of official protests later came from Dublin bound for FIFA about the refereeing of the Greek, Nikko Zlatanos, but it was too late — the game was over by then, and the result recorded.

Bulgaria. — Goranov — Dimitrov, Ivkov, Vassilev, Arabov — Barzov (Jeliaskov), Zdravkov (Alexandrov), Borisov — Milanov, Panov, Tzvetkov.

Rep. Ireland. — Kearns — Mulligan, Martin, O'Leary, Holmes — Brady, Daly, Campbell, Giles — Heighway, Givens.

Bulgaria were ahead after 14 minutes, when Steve Heighway miscued a pass back meant for Paddy Mulligan, and Pavel Panov was given the chance to sweep the ball past Mick Kearns from 20 yards.

Eire might have equalised five minutes before half-time, but when Borislav Dimitrov shouldered down Don Givens in the penalty box, the referee ignored Irish claims for a penalty.

But two minutes after the interval it was Givens, with his 16th goal for Eire, who equalised, heading in Johnny Giles's corner. On the hour Giles, the Irish player-manager, had what looked a good goal disallowed after a neat Heighway-Gerry Daly move, and substitute Andrei Jeliaskov snatched the winner for Bulgaria in the 76th minute, after Kearns had blocked, but couldn't hold, a shot from the dangerous Panov.

Four minutes later came the skirmish which finally ruined the match. About a dozen players were involved, and when the chaos was finally sorted out, referee Zlatanos was seen to be sending off Noel Campbell and Mick Martin, Krassimir Borissov and Jeliaskov.

Goals seemed totally unlikely after that. But three minutes from time Givens went clear through, only to shoot over Rumjantscho Goranov and the bar.

French manager Michel Hidalgo, a highly-interested spectator, commented: "It would appear impossible for a visiting side to win here. Eire were robbed. The refereeing was terrible."

Hidalgo doubtless remembered France's match, when, after being 2-0 up at half-time a series of controversial refereeing decisions helped the Bulgarians take a point from a 2-2 draw.

Meanwhile, in Reykjavik, Tony Knapp, the former Leicester centre-half, had the satisfaction of seeing his Iceland amateurs, aided by a sprinkling of professionals, well deserve their 1-0 win over Northern Ireland.

For Iceland it was a victory to include alongside such results as the European championship 1-0 defeat of East Germany. For Northern Ireland, and their manager Danny Blanchflower, it was a humiliation to rank alongside defeats in recent years by Cyprus and Albania.

The crowd of 12,000 saw the only goal come from Bjorn Albertsson, after a bad clearance by Tommy Jackson led to a shot by Standard Liege's Ausgeir Sigurvinsson, and a parry from goalkeeper Pat Jennings.

Jennings had to make a couple of good second half saves from Albertsson and, in reply, Chris McGrath forces a sharp save from Dagsson.

Blanchflower said: "This was a terrible shock." Knapp's verdict: "My boys should have got a few more."

This was a farewell match for Rudi Gloeckner, the East German referee who controlled the 1970 World Cup Final in which Brazil beat Italy 4-1, but whose reputation has been marred in the last couple of years by controversies involving British teams.

Kiril Ivkoe of Bulgaria.

Iceland. — Dagsson — O. Sigurvinsson, Gudlaugsson, Torfasson, Geirsson — J. Edvaldsson, Albertsson, Thorbjoernsson (A. Edvaldsson 65) — Thordarson, A. Sigurvinsson, Leifsson.

Iceland's professionals were Geirsson (Royal Union, Brussels), Johannes Edvaldsson (Celtic), Sigurvinsson and Leifsson (Charleroi).

HUNGARY FOR ARGENTINA . . .

HUNGARY, World Cup runners-up in 1938 and 1954, look well set to go on to Argentina after winning European group nine. All that stands in their way is the play-off with the third South American team.

And, as 64-year-old coach Lajos Baroti said: "We've recently been on an eight-match tour of South America with just this in mind. We're not afraid of going back for a play-off."

Ironically the last time Hungary were in the World Cup Finals in South America, in Chile in 1962, Baroti was then their manager. That was the Albert-Tichy-Goroes team and it was still Baroti during the 1966 Finals — the last time the Hungarians reached that stage.

Then he stepped down and along came, among others, Rudi Illovszky and Joszef Bozsik. But heart trouble ended Bozsik's reign before it had begun, and back came Baroti to work his old magic.

Hungary went into their last two matches in group nine knowing that toughest rivals, Russia, had blown it in losing to Greece. When Hungary travelled to Tbilisi both teams knew that even if the Magyars lost, they would still go through by beating Greece in Budapest in the last match.

Tbilisi was the setting for Jack Taylor's last World Cup-tie before retiring and he had few problems, with the only major action coming early on — Russia scoring after five minutes through Leonid Buryak and after 15 through Oleg Blokhin.

A 2-0 defeat, but what did it matter? All the Hungarians needed was to beat Greece before a 74,000 full house in the Nep stadium and they were almost there.

The teams were:

Hungary. — Gujdar — Martos, Balint, Kereki, Toth — Nyilasi, Pinter, Zombori (Torok 74) — Pusztai, Kovacs (Fazekas 84), Varadi.

Greece. — Constantinou — Kiraitas (Dielherakis 70), Nicolau, Fano, Josifidis — Terzanides, Koudas, Anastopoulos — Papaioannou, Ardizoglou, Antoniades.

The match was sewn up early. Pusztai headed No 1 past Constantinou in the 13th minute, and Tibor Nyilasi underlined his return to form after a serious head injury when he scored the second two minutes later.

It was almost too good to be true, and Gujdar had to make some sharp saves when the Greeks moved forward in the second half. Not that the Hungarians were ever in serious danger, and Laszlo Fazekas wrapped it up with a last-minute goal just five minutes after coming on as substitute for Kovacs.

The fans went wild. The team were given a 10-minute ovation and jubilantly undertook a lap of honour.

Hungary are on the way back!

ARG

ASIA Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77				OCEANIA Winner to be known by 31.7.77
Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Hong Kong Indonesia Malaysia Thailand Singapore Sri Lanka	Israel Japan Rep. Korea	Iran Saudi Arabia Syria	Bahrain Kuwait Qatar	Australia New Zealand Taiwan
1 winner	1 winner	1 winner	1 winner	Winner Oceania
		1.4 to 31.7.77 Winner ASIA	1.8 to 30.11.77	
			Qualified for Argentina	

ASIA/OCEANIA

Australia 3, New Zealand 1
Taiwan 0, Australia 3
Australia 2, Taiwan 1
N. Zealand 6, Taiwan 0
N. Zealand 1, Australia 1
Taiwan 0, N. Zealand 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
New Zealand	4	2	1	1	14	4	5
Taiwan	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 1
Singapore 2, Thailand 0
Indonesia 1, Hong Kong 4
Malaysia 6, Thailand 4
Singapore 2, Hong Kong 2
Indonesia 0, Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 2, Thailand 1
Singapore 1, Malaysia 0
Thailand 3, Indonesia 2
Hong Kong 1, Malaysia 1
Singapore 4, Indonesia 0
Play-off
Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1

Group 2
27. 2.77 Israel 0, Korea Rep. 0
6. 3.77 Israel 2, Japan 0
13. 3.77 Japan 0, Israel 2
20. 3.77 Korea Rep. 3, Israel 1
26. 3.77 Japan 0, Korea Rep. 0
3. 4.77 Korea Rep. 1, Japan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea Rep.	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
Israel	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Japan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

Group 3
12.11.76 Saudi Arabia 2, Syria 0
26.11.76 Syria 2, Saudi Arabia 1
7. 1.77 Saudi Arabia 0, Iran 3
28. 1.77 Syria 0, Iran 1
22. 4.77 Iran 2, Saudi Arabia 0
29. 4.77 Iran 2, Syria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	4	4	0	0	8	0	8
Saudi Arabia	4	1	0	3	3	7	3
Syria	4	1	0	3	2	6	2

Group 4
Bahrain 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 0, Qatar 2
Qatar 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 1, Kuwait 2
Qatar 0, Bahrain 3
Qatar 1, Kuwait 4
(all matches played in Qatar)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	4	4	0	0	10	2	8
Qatar	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	4	6	2

CONCACAF

Caribbean Area:

Group 1: by 31.8.76 Guyana, Surinam* — Surinam
Group 2: Trinidad*, Barbados — Trinidad
Surinam — Surinam
Group 3: by 30.4.76 Haiti*, Dominican Republic — Haiti
Group 4: Jamaica, Cuba* — Cuba
Netherlands Antilles* — Haiti
Haiti — Haiti

by 31.12.76

Caribbean Area
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 0, Haiti 3
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0
29. 8.76 Surinam 3, Guana 0
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago 1, Barbados 0
14. 9.76 Trinidad/Tobago 3, Barbados 1 (3rd match in Barbados)
14.11.76 Surinam 1, Trinidad/Tobago 1
28.11.76 Trinidad/Tobago 2, Surinam 2
18.12.76 Surinam 3, Trinidad/Tobago 2
28.11.76 Cuba 1, Haiti 1
11.12.76 Haiti 1, Cuba 1
Play-off Haiti 2, Cuba 0

EUROPE

Group 1
23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal 0, Poland 2
27.10.76 Denmark 5, Cyprus 0
31.10.76 Poland 5, Cyprus 0
17.11.76 Portugal 1, Denmark 0
5.12.76 Cyprus 1, Portugal 2
1. 5.77 Denmark 1, Poland 2
15. 5.77 Cyprus 1, Poland 3
21. 9.77 Poland v Denmark
29.10.77 Poland v Portugal
16.11.77 Portugal v Cyprus
Denmark v Portugal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	4	0	0	12	2	8
Denmark	4	2	0	2	11	4	4
Portugal	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

Group 2
13. 6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22. 9.76 Finland 7, Luxembourg 1
13.10.76 England 2, Finland 1
16.10.76 Luxembourg 1, Italy 4
17.11.76 Italy 2, England 0
30. 3.77 England 5, Luxembourg 0
26. 5.77 Luxembourg 0, Finland 1
8. 6.77 Finland 0, Italy 3
12.10.77 Luxembourg v England
15.10.77 Italy v Finland
16.11.77 England v Italy
3.12.77 Italy v Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Italy	3	3	0	0	9	1	
England	4	3	0	1	11	4	
Finland	5	2	0	3	10	10	
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	2	17	

Group 3
31.10.76 Turkey 4, Malta 0
17.11.76 German DR 1, Turkey 1
5.12.76 Malta 0, Austria 1
2. 4.77 Malta 0, German DR 1
17. 4.77 Austria 1, Turkey 0
30. 4.77 Austria 9, Malta 0
24. 9.77 Austria v German DR
12.10.77 German DR v Austria
29.10.77 German DR v Malta
30.10.77 Turkey v Austria
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Austria	3	3	0	0	11	0	
Germany DR	2	1	1	0	2	1	
Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	2	
Malta	4	0	0	4	0	15	

Group 4
5. 9.76 Iceland 0, Belgium 1
8. 9.76 Iceland 0, Netherlands 1
13.10.76 Netherlands 2, Northern Ireland 2
10.11.76 Belgium 2, Northern Ireland 0
26. 3.77 Belgium 0, Netherlands 2
11. 5.77 Iceland 1, Northern Ireland 0
31. 8.77 Netherlands v Iceland
4. 9.77 Belgium v Iceland
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland v Netherlands
26.10.77 Netherlands v Belgium
16.11.77 Northern Ireland v Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Holland	3	2	1	0	5	2	
Belgium	3	2	0	1	3	2	
Iceland	3	1	0	2	1	2	
N. Ireland	3	0	1	2	2	5	

Group 5
9.10.76 Bulgaria 2, France 2
17.11.76 France 2, Eire 0
30. 3.77 Eire 1, France 0
1. 5.77 Bulgaria v Eire
12.10.77 Eire v Bulgaria
16.11.77 France v Bulgaria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	
Eire	2	1	0	1	1	2	
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	2	2	

Group 6
16. 6.76 Sweden 2, Norway 0
8. 9.76 Norway 1, Switzerland 0
9.10.76 Switzerland 1, Sweden 2
8. 6.77 Sweden v Switzerland
7. 9.77 Norway v Sweden
30.10.77 Switzerland v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Norway	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group 7
13.10.77 Czechoslovakia 2, Scotland 0
17.11.76 Scotland 1, Wales 0
30. 3.77 Wales 3, Czechoslovakia 0
21. 9.77 Scotland v Czechoslovakia
12.10.77 Wales v Scotland
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia v Wales

GENTINA '78

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2

Group 8
10.10.76 Spain 1, Yugoslavia 0
6. 4.77 Rumania 1, Spain 0
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia 0, Rumania 2
6.10.77 Spain v Rumania
3.11.77 Rumania v Yugoslavia
30.11.77 Yugoslavia v Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece 1, Hungary 1
24. 4.77 USSR 2, Greece 0
30. 4.77 Hungary 2, USSR 1
10. 5.77 Greece 1, USSR 0
18. 5.77 USSR 2, Hungary 0
25. 5.77 Hungary 3, Greece 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
USSR	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24. 9.76 Canada 1, USA 1
3.10.76 USA 0, Mexico 0
10.10.76 Canada 1, Mexico 0
15.10.76 Mexico 3, USA 0
20.10.76 USA 2, Canada 0
27.10.76 Mexico 0, Canada 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	1	2	1	3	1	4
Canada	4	1	2	1	2	3	4
USA	4	1	2	1	3	4	4

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Panama 1
17. 9.76 Panama 2, Guatemala 4
26. 9.76 Guatemala 7, Panama 0
1.12.76 El Salvador 1, Costa Rica 1
5.12.76 Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 0
8.12.76 Guatemala 3, El Salvador 1
12.12.76 Guatemala 1, Costa Rica 1
17.12.76 Costa Rica 1, El Salvador 1
19.12.76 El Savador 2, Guatemala 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	6	3	2	1	15	6	8
El Salvador	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Costa Rica	6	1	4	1	8	6	6
Panama	6	1	1	4	7	21	3

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1
4. 9.76 Upper Volta 1, Ivory Coast 1
25. 9.76 Ivory Coast 2, Upper Volta 0
31.10.76 Senegal 1, Togo 1
17.10.76 Togo 1, Senegal 0
10.10.76 Ghana 2, Guinea 1
16.10.76 Sierra Leone 0, Nigeria 0
30.10.76 Nigeria 6, Sierra Leone 2

(Tanzania, Sudan, Central Africa and Zaire withdrew)

17.10.76 Congo 2, Cameroon 2
31.10.76 Cameroon 0, Congo 2
Guinea 2, Ghana 1
29.10.76 Egypt 3, Ethiopia 0
14.11.76 Ethiopia 1, Egypt 2
12.12.76 Morocco 1, Tunisia 1
9. 1.77 Tunisia 1, Morocco 1
16. 1.77 Ghana 0, Guinea 2
(play-off)

Second Round
Tunisia 2, Algeria 0
Algeria 1, Tunisia 1
Togo 0, Guinea 2
Guinea 2, Togo 1
Congo 2, Ivory Coast 3
Ivory Coast 3, Congo 1
Kenya 0, Egypt 0
Egypt 1, Kenya 0
Uganda 1, Zambia 0
Zambia 2, Uganda 1

5. 6.77 Guinea v Tunisia
19. 6.77 Tunisia v Guinea
Ivory Coast v Nigeria
Nigeria v Ivory Coast
15. 7.77 Egypt v Zambia
31. 7.77 Zambia v Egypt

SOUTH AMERICA
Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia 0, Brazil 0
24. 2.77 Colombia 0, Paraguay 1
6. 3.77 Paraguay 1, Colombia 1
9. 3.77 Brazil 6, Colombia 0
13. 3.77 Paraguay 0, Brazil 1
17/20. 3.77 Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	8	1	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Colombia	4	0	2	2	1	8	2

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela 1, Uruguay 1
27. 2.77 Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0
6. 3.77 Venezuela 1, Bolivia 3
13. 3.77 Bolivia 2, Venezuela 0
17. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Venezuela 0
27. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Bolivia 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivia	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Uruguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador 1, Peru 1
27. 2.77 Ecuador 0, Chile 1
6. 3.77 Chile 1, Peru 1
12. 3.77 Peru 4, Ecuador 0
20. 3.77 Chile 3, Ecuador 0
26. 3.77 Peru 2, Chile 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peru	4	2	2	0	8	2	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

WORLD CUP GUIDE

Argentina '78

Classified Results

LIBERTADORES CUP

Group 1

April 20

PEÑAROL (Uruguay) (0) 0
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (0) 1 (Mastrangelo)
Att: 45,000

Peñarol: Fossatti, M. Gonzalez, Faral, Peruena, Custodio, Maneiro (Unanue), Duarte, Silva, Pizzani (Maldone), Morena, Jimenez.

Boca Juniors: Gatti, Perrin, Sa, Mouzo, Tarantini, Benitez, Suñe, Ribolzi, Mastrangelo, Veglio, Zanabria.

Referee: Romualdo Arpi Filho (Brazil).

April 21

RIVER PLATE (Argentina) (0) 1 (Gonzalez)
DEFENSOR (Uruguay) (1) 1 (Gomez)

River Plate: Filol, Comelles, Perfumo, Artico, H. Lopez, J. Lopez, Merlo, Sabella, Gonzalez, Marchetti, Ortiz.

Defensor: Clavijo, Arispe (Conde), Jauregui, Salomón, Javier, Graffigna, G. Perez (Caceres), Gomez, Rudy Rodriguez, Santelli, Rodolfo Rodriguez.

Referee: Mario Canesa (Colombia).

April 26

PEÑAROL (Uruguay) (0) 2 (Pizzani, De Jesus)
RIVER PLATE (Argentina) (2) 2 (Passarella, Sabella)

Peñarol: Fossatti, M. Gonzalez (sent off 60 m), Faral, Peruena, Morales, Unanue, Custodio (Jimenez), Silva, Pizzani, Morena, Simaldone (De Jesus).

River Plate: Filol, Comelles, Perfumo, Passarella (sent off 89 m.), H. Lopez (Saporiti), J. Lopez, Merlo, Marchetti, P. Gonzalez (Artico — sent off 60 m.), Sabella, Ortiz.

Referee: Jose Favilli Neto (Brazil).

April 28

BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (1) 2 (Mouzo pen., Felman)
DEFENSOR (Uruguay) (0) 0

Boca Juniors: Gatti, Perrin, Sa, Mouzo, Tarantini, Benitez (Carballo), Ribolzi, Zanabria, Mastrangelo, Veglio, Felman.

Defensor: Clavijo, Arispe, Jauregui, Salomon, Javier, Perez (Conde), Graffigna, Gomez, Rudy Rodriguez, Santelli, Rodolfo Rodriguez (Caceres).

Referee: Jose Romei (Paraguay).

May 11

BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (1) 1 (Ribolzi)
PEÑAROL (Uruguay) (0) 0

Boca Juniors: Gatti, Perrin, Sa, Mouzo, Tarantini, Benitez, Suñe, Ribolzi, Mastrangelo, Veglio, Felman (Zanabria).

Peñarol: Fossatti, Morales (Del Capellini), Faral, Peruena, Morales, Unanue (Silva), Custodio, Maneiro, Pizzani, Morena, De Jesus.

Referee: Armando Marques (Brazil).

May 12

DEFENSOR (Uruguay) (0) 0
RIVER PLATE (Uruguay) (0) 0
Att: 2,700

Defensor: Clavijo, Arispe, Jauregui, Salomón, Javier, Perez, Graffigna, Gomez, Rudi Rodriguez, Santelli, Caceres (Alvarez).

River Plate: Filol, Saporiti, Amorone, Lonardi, H. Lopez, J. Lopez, Merlo (sent off 53 m), Marchetti, P. Gonzalez (Pitarch), Luque, Ortiz (Commisso).

Referee: Juan Silvagno (Chile).

May 18

RIVER PLATE (Argentina) (0) 0
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (0) 0

River Plate: Filol, Saporiti, Amorone, Lonardi, H. Lopez, Marchetti, Pitarch, Sabella, Commisso, Luque, Ortiz.

Boca Juniors: Gatti, Perrin, Sa, Mouzo, Tarantini (Suarez), Benitez, Suñe, Ribolzi, Mastrangelo, Zanabria, Felman (Veglio).

Referee: Miguel Comesaña (Argentina).

DEFENSOR (Uruguay) (2) 2 (Santelli 2)
PEÑAROL (Uruguay) (3) 4 (Pizzani, Morena, Maneiro, De Jesus)

Group 1 (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina)	6	4	2	0	5	0	10
River Plate (Argentina)	6	1	4	1	5	5	6
Defensor (Uruguay)	6	1	3	2	5	7	5
Peñarol (Uruguay)	6	1	1	4	7	10	3

GROUP 2

April 24

BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (0) 1 (Reynaldo)
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) (0) 0

Referee: Juan Carvajal (Chile)

April 28

NACIONAL (Colombia) (0) 0
DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) (2) 3 (Scotta 2, Torres)

May 4

ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 4
NACIONAL (Colombia) 0
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) 3
DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) 0

May 8

BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (2) 3 (Lugo, Reynaldo, Troncone)
NACIONAL (Colombia) (0) 0
Att: 18,000

Bolivar: Jimenez, Gallo, Lima, Troncone, Baldiviso, Aragones, Gongora, Rimazza, Fernandez (Bastida), Reynaldo (Vaca), Lugo.

Nacional: Navarro, Salgado, Semenewicz, Maturana, Sarmiento, Retal (G. Lopez), Rosquetti (S. Lopez), Herrera, Palavecino, Castañeda, Aristizabal.

Referee: Alberto Martinez (Chile).

ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia (0) 1 (Romero)
DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) (0) 0

Oriente Petrolero: Hoyos, Flores, Espinoza, Arias, Campos, Moreno, Tortolay, Romero, Tonnino, Jimenez, Aguilar.

Dep. Cali: Leone, Muntasar, Castro, Rogel, Escobar, Calero, Landucci, Umana, Torres, Otero, Scotta.

Referee: Romualdo Arpi (Brazil)

May 15

ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) (0) 0
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (0) 0
Att: 22,000

Oriente Petrolero: Hoyos, Moreno, Espinoza, Campos, Arias, Romero, Tortolay, Franco, Saucedo, Jimenez, Aguilar.

Bolivar: Jimenez, Gallo, Troncone, Solorzano, Baldiviso, Aragones, Lird, Rimazza, Bastida, Reynaldo, Fernandez (Gongora).

Referee: Arturo Ituralde (Argentina)

DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) (2) 3 (Scotta, Landucci, Otero)
NACIONAL (Colombia) (1) 1

Cali: Leone, Muntasar, Rogel, Castro, Landucci, Calero, Umana, Torres, Scotta, Otero, Barona.

Nacional: Navarro, Salgado, Maturana, Lopez, Sarmiento, Pelaez, Semenewicz, Herrera, Bovada, Palavecino, Aristizabal.

May 19

DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) (1) 3 (Torres, Umana, Landucci)
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (0) 0
Att: 50,000.

Cali: Leone, Benitez, Caicedo, Rogel, Calero, Arbular, Retal, Scotta (Bonifacio), Umana (Da Crocce), Castro (Landucci), Torres.

Bolivar: Jimenez, Gallo, Troncone, Solorzano, Vacca, Lird (Gongora), Baldiviso, Rimazza, Fernandez, Aragones, Bastidas.

Referee: Roque Cerullo (Uruguay).

NACIONAL (Colombia) (0) 3 (Maturana, Palavecino, Herrera)
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) (0) 1 (Tortolay)

Oriente Petrolero: Hoyos, Moreno, Espinoza, Campos, Arias, Franco, Tortolay, Romero, Saucedo, Jimenez, Aguilar.

Nacional: Navarro, Lopez, Maturana, Salgado, Sarmiento, Pelaez, Raschedi, Herrera, Aristizabal, Palavecino, Bovada.

Referee: Vicente Lobregat (Venezuela)

Group 2 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar (Bolivia)	5	3	1	1	7	1	7
Dep. Cali (Colombia)	5	3	0	2	9	5	6
Oriente Petrolero (Boliv)	5	2	1	2	5	4	5
Nacional (Colombia)	5	1	0	4	4	14	2

Group 3

April 24

DEPORTIVO CUENCA (Ecuador) (0) 0
NACIONAL (Ecuador) (1) 2 (Ron, Corr

Cuenca: Aguirre, Barrera, Lizondo, Caicedo, Klin Romero, Velez, Salvatierra, Castañeda, Liciardi, Tapia

Nacional: Delgado, Perdomo, Jara, Sweet, Pe Peñaza, Villafuerte, Granda, Vega, Nieves, Ron, Corr

Referee: Jose Varrone (Venezuela)

INTERNACIONAL (Brazil) (0) 1 (Dario)
CORINTIANS (Brazil) (0) 0

Internacional: Manga, Claudio, Marinho, Hern Vacaria, Cacapava, Falcao, Batista, Valdomiro (San Dario, Lula (Escurinho).

Corintians: Jairo, Ze Maria, Moises, Claudio Min Givanildo, Nicola, Romeu, Palinha, Vaguinho, Gera Edu.

Referee: Miguel Comesana (Argentina)

April 30

INTERNACIONAL (Brazil) (2) 3 (Lula, Da 2)
DEP. CUENCA (Ecuador) (1) 1 (Liciardi

Internacional: Manga, Claudio, Herminio, Mari Vacaria, Pedro (Escurinho), Falcao, Bolinha, Valdor (Santos), Dario, Lula.

Dep. Cuenca: M. Aguirre, C. Aguirre, Lizondo, Caic Klinger, Romero (Mustafa), Barrera, Salvatie Castañeda, Liciardi, Gramajo.

Referee: Roberto Barrero (Argentina)

CORINTIANS (Brazil) (2) 3 (Claud Palinha, Vaguinho)
NACIONAL (Ecuador) (0) 0

Corintians: Jairo, Ze Maria, Moises, Ze Edua Claudio, Givanildo, Luciano, Palinha, Vaguinho, Ger Romeu.

Nacional: Delgado, Perdomo, Perez, Sweet, Peñ Villafuerte, Granda, Vega, Correa, Ron, Nieves.

Referee: Mario Fiorenza (Venezuela)

May 4

CORINTIANS (Brazil) (2) 4 (Vaguin Palinha, Givanildo, Romeu)
DEP. CUENCA (Ecuador) (0) 0

Corintians: Jairo, Ze Maria, Moises, Ze Edua Claudio, Givanildo, Luciano, Palinha, Vaguinho, Lar Romeu.

Cuenca: M. Aguirre, C. Aguirre, Lizondo, Caic Klinger, Barrera, Gatti, Salvatierra, Castañeda, Licia Gramajo.

May 5

INTERNACIONAL (Brazil) (1) 2 (Dar Escurinho)
NACIONAL (Ecuador) (0) 0

Internacional: Manga, Claudio, Marinho, Gar Vacaria, Batista, Falcao, Jair (Escurinho), Valdomiro, Da Lula (Santos).

Nacional: Delgado, Perdomo, Sweet, Perez, Escalar Villafuerte (Rojas), Granda, Vega, Ron (Pazmino), Corr Nieves.

Referee: Hector Rodriguez (Uruguay)

Group 3 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Internacional (Brazil)	6	4	1	1	9	4
Nacional (Ecuador)	6	3	1	2	6	6
Corintians (Brazil)	6	2	1	3	10	6
Dep. Cuenca (Ecuador)	6	1	1	4	3	12

Group 4

April 20

UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE (0) 1 (Socias)
EVERTON (Chile) (0) 0
LIBERTAD (Paraguay) (0) 0
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) (0) 0

April 26

LIBERTAD (Paraguay) (1) 3 (E. & M. Mon Espinola)
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE (0) 0

Libertad: Baez, Espinola, Benitez Isasi, Villalba, Ber Colman, Huespe (sent off 46m.), Maldonado, Lazzarini, Monel (Villalba), E. Monel.

Univ. de Chile: Carballo, Benavente (Barrera), Quintar Pellegrini, Rigorra (sent off 78 m.), Koscina, Aranguiz, Sc Neumann (Veira), Socias, Salah.

Referee: Agomar Martin (Brazil)

April 29
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 1
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 0

May 3
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) (2) 2 (Villalba, Sosa)
EVERTON (Chile) (1) 2 (Spedaletti 2)

May 6
LIBERTAD (Paraguay) 2
EVERTON (Chile 1

Group 4 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad (Paraguay)	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Universidad de Chile	6	3	0	3	3	6	6
Everton (Chile)	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
Olimpia (Paraguay)	6	1	3	2	6	6	5

Group 5
May 3
UNION HUARAL (Peru) (0) 1 (Escobar pen.)
PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) (1) 1 (Peralta)

Union Huaral: J. Caceres, Palacios, C. Caceres, Pau, Escobar, Estrada, Espinoza, Wuchi (Leturia), Rey, Luces, Gutierrez.

Portuguesa: Romero, Nito de Lima, Busso, Marcenaro, Salas, Echenausi, Nuñez, Moss, Peralta, Silva (Ochoa), Marin (Sopic).

May 6
SPORT BOYS (Peru) 1
PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) 2

May 10
ESTUDIANTES (Venezuela) (1) 1 Pomerico)
UNION HUARAL (Peru) (0) 0

Estudiantes: Oriolo, Trejo, Scaminacci, Paez, Tello, Ros, Cloquell, Scarpeccio, Girado, Chiazzaro (Duran), Pomerico.

Union Huaral: J. Caceres, Palacios, C. Caceres, Pau, Escobar, Estroch, Espinoza, Gutierrez, Muñoz (Orbegoso), Luces (Leturia), Canamero.

Referee: Sebastian Rufino (Brazil)

May 14
PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) (1) 2 (Peralta, Nuñez)
UNION HUARAL (Peru) (0) 0

Portuguesa: Romero (Garate), Marin, Marcenaro, Busso, Ochoa, Lima, Moss, Echenausi, Silva, Peralta, Nuñez.

Union Huaral: J. Caceres, Campana, C. Caceres, Pau, Palacios, Gutierrez, Gucci, Espinoza, Rey (Luces), Orderoso, Canamero.

Referee: Jorge Antequera (Bolivia)

May 17
SPORT BOYS (Peru) (0) 1 (La Rosa)
ESTUDIANTES (Venezuela) (2) 3 (Scarpecio 2, Cloque)

Sport Boys: Carrizales, Reyes, Salazar, Guimaro, Quintana, Scolari (Hurtado), Bonelli, Gil (Lovera), La Rosa, Chirinos, Loo.

Estudiantes: Oriolo, Trejos (Rivas), Carminachi, Paez, Tello, Scarpecio, Rosa, Cloque, Cerraro, Chiazaro, Pomarico.

Referee: Oscar Orfuba (Bolivia)

Group 5 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa (Venezuela)	4	3	1	0	7	2	7
Estudiantes (Venezuela)	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Union Huaral (Peru)	4	1	1	2	2	4	3
Sport Boys (Peru)	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

INTERNATIONAL
May 18
MEXICO (1) 1 (Real)
PERU (1) 1 (Ramirez)

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS:

Bolivar (Bolivia) 4, Huracan (Argentina) 1; (Apr. 18). The Strongest (Bolivia) 5, Huracan (Argentina) 3 (Apr. 20).

SOUTH AMERICAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
(in Venezuela — counts as South American qualifying group for Junior World Cup)

Group A: Colombia 2 Bolivia 1 (Apr. 17); Chile 2 Colombia 0 (Apr. 18); Brazil 3 Bolivia 0 (Apr. 20); Chile 2 Bolivia 0 (Apr. 23); Brazil 2 Colombia 0 (Apr. 23); Brazil 4 Chile 0 (Apr. 28).

Group B: Uruguay 1 Argentina 1 (Apr. 17); Paraguay 5 Peru 3 (Apr. 17); Paraguay 2 Argentina 1 (Apr. 18); Peru 2 Argentina 1 (Apr. 20); Uruguay 3 Venezuela 0 (Apr. 22); Venezuela 1 Argentina 1 (Apr. 23); Uruguay 2 Peru 1 (Apr. 28); Paraguay 1 Venezuela 1 (Apr. 28); Paraguay 0 Uruguay 0 (Apr. 24).

Final standings

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	9	0	6
Chile	3	2	0	1	4	4	4
Colombia	3	1	0	2	2	5	2
Bolivia	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	2	2	0	6	2	6
Paraguay	4	2	2	0	8	5	6
Peru	4	1	1	2	7	9	3
Venezuela	4	0	3	1	3	6	3
Argentina	4	0	2	2	4	6	2

Final round: Brazil 0 Uruguay 0 (May 1); Paraguay 1 Chile 1 (May 1); Brazil 1 Chile 0 (May 3); Uruguay 1 Paraguay 0 (May 3); Brazil 3 Paraguay 1 (May 6); Uruguay 4 Chile 0 (May 6).

Final round standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	3	2	1	0	5	0	5
Brazil	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
Paraguay	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Chile	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

Uruguay won on goal difference and qualified for Junior World Cup together with second placed Brazil and third placed (on goal difference) Paraguay.

ARGENTINA: Metropolitan First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	12	9	2	1	35	18	20
Velez Sarsfield	13	8	2	3	24	20	18
Atlanta	13	6	5	2	20	16	17
Colon Santa Fe	12	5	5	2	21	14	15
Newell's Old Boys	12	6	3	3	20	15	15
Lanus	13	6	3	4	17	14	15
Independiente	12	4	6	2	26	15	14
Quilmes	13	4	6	3	20	19	14
Rosario Central	12	5	3	4	24	14	13
Boca Juniors	12	5	3	4	19	14	13
Racing	12	4	5	3	15	13	13
Huracan	12	4	5	3	14	12	13
All Boys	12	4	5	3	19	23	13
Estud La Plata	13	4	5	4	26	24	13
Banfield	13	5	3	5	18	19	13
Union Santa Fe	12	3	6	3	21	17	12
Argentinos Juniors	12	4	3	5	18	17	11
San Lorenzo	12	3	5	4	10	16	11
Platense	13	2	7	4	16	24	11
Gim y Esgrima LP	13	3	2	8	21	29	8
Chacarita Juniors	13	1	4	8	15	25	6
Temperley	13	2	1	10	17	38	5
FC Oeste	12	1	1	10	14	34	3

BRAZIL: Carioca League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco da Gama	11	10	0	1	33	4	20
Flamengo	11	8	1	2	21	8	17
Botafogo	10	7	2	1	19	4	16
Fluminense	10	7	1	2	21	4	15
America	11	6	3	2	12	12	15
Bomsucesso	10	5	2	3	13	12	12
Olaria	11	3	4	4	14	18	10
Americano	11	2	5	4	13	12	9
Goitacas	9	2	4	3	8	8	8
Bangu	11	0	8	3	9	18	8
Volta Redonda	11	2	3	6	6	13	7
Campo Grande	11	2	3	6	7	17	7
Sao Cristovac	11	3	1	7	11	25	7
Portuguesa	10	1	3	6	4	16	5
Madureira	11	0	4	7	4	22	4

URUGUAY: Major League (after 8 games):
(1) Nacional 13 pts, (2) Peñarol, Wanderers, Liverpool 11, (5) Rentistas 9, (6) River Plate 8, (7) Cerro, Huracan Buceo 7, (9) Defensor, Sudamerica 6, (11) Danubio 4, (12) Bella Vista 3.

PERU: Inter zone tournament (one match to go)

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colegio Nac Iquitos	13	6	5	2	24	17	17
Sport Boys	13	5	6	2	26	20	16
Alianza Lima	13	7	2	4	26	20	16
Sporting Cristal	13	6	3	4	23	18	15
Melgar	13	6	2	5	14	19	14
Deportivo Junin	13	4	4	9	22	22	12
Alfonso Ugarte	13	1	2	10	15	32	4

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Huaral	13	6	5	2	15	8	17
Juan Aurich	13	4	6	3	14	10	14
Universitario	13	5	4	4	12	12	14
Bolognesi	13	5	4	4	10	8	14
Atletico Chalaco	13	4	5	4	18	16	13
Leon de Huanuco	12	5	2	5	12	10	12
Deportivo Municipal	13	3	3	7	14	17	9
Cienciano	12	2	4	6	9	23	8

COLOMBIA: "Apertura" Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Junior	17	8	7	2	25	12	23
Ind. Santa Fe	17	5	11	1	22	17	21
Quindio	17	7	7	3	21	17	21
Medellin	17	6	8	3	17	13	20
Caldas	17	7	4	6	27	26	18
Millionarios	15	6	5	4	23	21	17
Deportivo Cali	15	6	4	5	22	19	16
America	16	6	4	6	21	20	16
Bucaramanga	17	4	7	6	18	23	15
Pereira	17	6	2	9	18	25	14
Union Magdalena	16	4	6	6	12	18	14
Tolima	18	3	7	8	21	27	13
Nacional	14	4	4	6	14	15	12
Cucuta	15	3	4	8	22	30	10

VENEZUELA: Venezuela Cup

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	7	4	3	0	8	2	11
Portugues	6	1	5	0	5	4	7
Galicia	5	2	2	1	5	4	6
Italia	6	1	4	1	4	5	6
Universidad	4	2	0	2	3	2	4
Canarias	7	0	2	5	1	9	2

Group 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa	5	4	1	0	14	4	9
Barquisimeto	5	2	2	1	7	8	6
Estudiantes	4	2	0	2	9	7	4
San Cristobal	5	1	2	2	6	8	4
Atletico Zamora	5	0	1	4	3	12	1

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aviacion	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Palestino	4	2	2	0	10	3	6
Union Española	4	2	2	0	8	3	6
O'Higgins	4	2	2	0	9	4	6
Lota Schwater	4	1	3	0	6	4	5
Huachipato	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Nubiense	4	2	1	1	11	7	5
Wanderers	4	1	2	1	5	7	4
Colo Colo	4	2	0	2	7	8	4
Univ. de Chile	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Concepcion	4	1	1	2	4	8	3
Everton	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Audax Italiano	4	1	0	3	2	6	2
Ovalle	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
Santiago Morning	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
Antofagasta	4	0	2	2	2	9	2
Green Cross	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Univ. Catolica	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

USSR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Moscow	8	4	4	0	12	3	12
Dynamo Tbilisi	8	4	3	1	11	6	11
Kairat Alma Ata	8	3	5	0	7	4	11
Torpedo Moscow	8	4	3	1	9	6	11
Loko Moscow	8	3	4	1	6	3	10
Schachtjor Donezk	8	4	2	2	7	4	10
Dynamo Kiev	7	2	5	0	11	3	9
Ararat Erevan	7	3	2	2	7	6	8
Neftschi Baku	7	2	4	1	10	10	8
Zenit Leningrad	8	0	7	1	5	6	7
Dnjepr Dnjepropetr.	8	3	1	4	5	9	7
Tscherz Odessa	7	2	1	4	7	11	5
CSKA Moscow	8	0	5	3	5	14	5
Sarja Voros	8	1	2	5	5	8	4
Karpaty Lvov	8	1	2	5	5	10	4
Krilija Kuybyschev	8	0	2	6	6	15	2

● Continued overleaf

ALGERIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JSK	25	16	6	3	52	27	63
CR Belcourt	25	15	7	3	38	17	62
MC Oran	25	14	8	3	49	39	60
Nahd Cnan	25	15	5	5	51	24	59
Batna	25	9	7	9	37	36	50
Kouba	25	7	10	8	27	30	48
El Asnam	25	9	5	11	26	27	48
El Harrach	25	8	7	10	30	33	48
MC Alger	23	9	6	8	46	46	47
USM Alger	25	7	7	11	31	34	46
US Sétif	24	2	15	7	27	23	43
Constantine	24	6	4	14	26	50	40
R.C.G. Oran	24	4	5	15	20	42	37
Guelma	24	4	4	16	24	54	36

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Spartak	29	16	9	4	68	33	41
C.S.K.A.	29	14	9	5	43	25	38
Marek	29	15	7	7	43	28	37
Slavia	29	13	9	7	51	36	35
Botev	29	12	7	10	30	33	31
Loc. Plovdiv	29	10	10	9	32	30	30
Pirine	29	10	9	10	24	31	29
Loc. Sofia	29	9	11	9	40	38	29
Beroé	29	9	9	11	33	50	27
Slivène	29	9	8	12	39	46	26
Svichtov	29	9	8	12	32	43	26
Akadémik	29	7	12	10	24	25	26
Trakia	29	6	13	10	33	39	25
J.S.K. Spartak	29	7	9	13	37	42	23
Pernik	29	7	9	13	33	37	23
Dounav	29	5	8	16	21	48	18

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WAC	27	12	10	5	46	26	61
Kénitra	27	11	10	6	29	23	59
Oujda	27	9	14	4	28	23	58
El Jadida	27	11	8	8	31	22	57
Raja	27	12	6	9	27	23	57
FAR	27	11	7	9	31	34	56
FUS	27	12	4	11	33	28	55
Salé	27	10	8	9	23	23	55
Meknè	27	7	13	7	29	29	54
Fès	27	8	6	9	20	20	53
Mohammedia	27	6	13	8	20	21	52
Etoile	27	8	8	11	27	32	51
Settat	27	7	10	10	23	32	51
TAS	27	7	9	11	35	38	50
Sidi Kacem	27	4	13	10	24	36	48
Tétouan	27	5	9	14	24	41	47

HUNGARY
(Final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasas Budapest	34	25	3	6	100	45	53
Ujpest Dozsa	34	22	6	6	88	47	50
Ferencvaros	34	18	11	5	78	42	47
Honv. Budapest	34	19	8	7	62	43	46
Szombathely	34	14	8	12	53	49	36
Videoton	34	14	7	13	60	46	35
Raba ETO Györ	34	15	5	14	51	46	35
MTK/VM	34	15	5	14	56	53	35
Tatabanya	34	15	3	16	58	56	33
Diosgyör	34	13	6	15	40	52	32
Zalaegerszeg	34	12	7	15	47	47	31
Szeged EOL	34	11	8	15	39	64	30
Bekescsaba	34	9	10	15	40	57	28
Kaposvar	34	9	9	16	39	45	27
Dunaujvaros	34	9	9	16	37	60	27
Csepel	34	8	10	16	45	59	26
Salgotarian	34	10	5	19	42	77	25
Dorog	34	5	6	23	28	75	16

BELGIUM
(Final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	34	23	6	5	72	30	52
Anderlecht	34	21	6	7	74	37	48
Standard	34	18	9	7	51	26	45
RWD Molenbeek	34	18	8	8	62	37	44
Lokeren	34	15	8	11	53	39	38
Waregem	34	14	7	13	46	39	35
Antwerp	34	13	9	12	43	49	35
CS Bruges	34	12	11	11	58	53	35
Beerschot	34	11	13	10	58	51	35
Lierse SK	34	14	6	14	47	50	34
Winterslag	34	12	8	14	44	45	32
Kortrijk	34	11	10	13	42	47	32
Beveren-Waas	34	11	9	14	35	43	31
Beringen	34	8	10	16	40	57	26
FC Liège	34	10	5	19	39	79	25
SC Charleroi	34	8	9	17	30	50	25
Mechelen KV	34	6	8	20	38	67	20
Oostende	34	6	8	20	39	72	20

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SW Innsbruck	35	20	11	4	50	21	51
Rapid	35	17	11	7	61	38	45
Austria/WAC	35	18	7	10	69	44	43
VOeEST Linz	35	10	13	12	45	46	33
Linzer ASK	35	11	11	13	45	48	33
Admira/Wacker	35	11	11	13	42	51	33
Vienna	35	9	13	13	34	38	31
Grazer AK	35	9	12	14	32	51	30
Sturm Graz	35	9	10	16	40	54	28
A. Salzburg	35	9	5	21	34	61	23

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
(Final Table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dukla Prague	30	18	6	6	61	33	42
Inter Bratislava	30	16	6	8	55	36	38
Slavia Prague	30	13	10	7	53	36	36
Zbrojovka Brno	30	13	9	8	49	40	35
Lok. Kolsce	30	16	1	13	60	59	33
Skoda Pizen	30	11	9	10	40	37	31
Banik Ostrava	30	11	8	11	36	33	30
Slovan	30	12	5	13	44	38	29
Bohemians Prague	30	8	13	9	32	34	29
ZVL Zilina	30	10	9	11	40	43	29
Trecin	30	10	9	11	41	48	29
Union Teplice	30	11	6	13	45	46	28
Sparta Prague	30	11	6	13	40	44	28
Trnava	30	9	8	13	26	47	26
Frydek-Mistek	30	8	7	15	35	48	23
VSS Kosice	30	5	4	21	35	70	14

ITALY
(Final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	30	23	5	2	50	20	51
Torino	30	21	8	1	51	14	50
Fiorentina	30	12	11	7	38	32	35
Inter	30	10	13	7	34	27	33
Lazio	30	10	11	9	34	28	31
Perugia	30	9	11	10	32	28	29
Napoli	30	9	11	10	38	38	29
Roma	30	9	10	11	27	33	28
Verona	30	7	14	9	26	32	28
Milan	30	5	17	8	30	33	27
Genoa	30	8	11	11	40	45	27
Bologna	30	8	11	11	24	31	27
Foggia	30	10	6	14	33	39	26
Sampdoria	30	6	12	12	28	42	24
Catanzaro	30	7	7	16	26	43	21
Cesena	30	3	8	19	22	48	14

PORTUGAL
(Final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	30	23	5	2	67	24	51
Sporting	30	17	8	5	59	26	42
Porto	30	18	5	7	72	27	41
Boavista Porto	30	13	8	9	41	33	34
Academico Coimbra	30	14	6	10	29	25	34
Vitoria Setubal	30	13	6	11	47	46	32
Varzim	30	10	11	9	36	36	31
Braga	30	10	9	11	36	36	29
Vitoria Guimaraes	30	10	6	14	39	38	26
Belenenses	30	7	12	11	29	39	26
Estoril	30	6	13	11	26	36	25
Portimonense	30	8	9	13	33	46	25
Leixoes Porto	30	4	15	11	15	31	23
Montijo	30	7	9	14	30	47	23
Beira-Mar	30	7	9	14	33	57	23
Atletico	30	3	9	18	23	68	15

EAST GERMANY
(Final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Dresden	26	16	6	4	66	27	38
Magdeburg	26	14	6	6	47	28	34
Carl Zeiss Jena	26	14	5	7	45	31	33
Dynamo Berlin	26	14	4	8	43	27	32
Lok. Leipzig	26	10	9	7	40	29	29
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	26	8	9	9	27	35	25
Chemie Halle	26	7	10	9	34	39	24
Sachsen Zwickau	26	7	8	11	32	34	22
Karl-Marx-Stadt	26	10	2	14	36	39	22
Wismut Aue	26	6	10	10	27	45	22
Union Berlin	26	7	7	12	30	42	21
Vor Frankfurt	26	9	3	14	23	36	21
Stahl Riesa	26	8	5	13	28	47	21
Hansa Rostock	26	6	8	12	23	41	20

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	31	22	6	3	70	21	50
PAOK	31	21	7	3	62	26	49
Olympiakos	31	21	6	4	65	24	48
AEK	31	21	3	7	54	25	45
Aris	31	14	8	9	49	31	36
OFI Crète	31	13	4	14	50	46	30
Kavalla	31	10	9	12	28	34	29
Kastoria	31	11	7	13	30	42	29
Paniornos	31	9	10	12	31	32	28
Ethnikos	31	11	5	15	40	43	27
Yannina	31	8	9	14	41	45	25
Pierikos	31	10	5	16	38	54	25
Héraklis	31	9	7	15	25	44	25
Appolion	31	9	7	15	28	50	25
Serres	31	10	4	17	32	51	24
Panetolikos	31	8	7	16	24	46	23
Patras	31	10	3	18	31	56	23
Atromitos	31	6	4	21	26	57	16

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	29	17	7	5	71	30	41
Steaua	29	19	3	7	65	30	41
Craiova	29	14	7	8	46	29	35
Petrosani	29	15	4	10	52	39	34
Sportul	29	11	8	10	30	30	30
UT Arad	29	12	6	11	47	55	30
Asa Tg. Mures	29	12	5	12	39	37	29
Timisoara	29	13	3	13	34	33	29
FCM Resita	29	12	5	12	41	46	29
Jassy	29	10	8	11	34	27	28
Piteri	29	10	8	11	34	41	28
Sc Bacau	29	10	7	12	29	34	27
Oradea	29	10	7	12	40	46	27
Corvinul	29	8	10	11	28	37	26
Rapid	29	10	6	13	35	45	26
FC Constanta	29	9	6	14	35	37	24
Progresul	29	9	5	15	30	57	23
FCM Galati	29	5	5	19	27	64	15

ULI HOENESS Bayern Munchen

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